

2023 Service Directory

Spring Cleanup

To effectively maintain lawn, shrub, and bed areas it is necessary to make sure your property receives the proper care in the spring. The spring cleanup is the first step to establishing a solid foundation for a well-maintained property. Without the proper care during the early growing months, the chance of achieving a successful maintenance program may be jeopardized. Our spring cleanup service includes the removal of all leaf litter, dead grass, and minor branch debris on lawns and shrub beds, sweeping of walkways and driveways, and removal of collected debris from your property. **All cleanup work is performed on a per man hour basis. (NOTE: We highly recommend that a thatching of every lawn be done in conjunction with the spring cleanup – (see description for thatching).**

Thatching

Thatching a lawn is similar to giving it a stiff raking; however, thatching is much more effective. We use a machine called a “Thatcher” that spins small, metal tines. These tines tug on the turf, which in turn pulls the weak and dead turf debris to the surface of the lawn. This process also effectively scratches the soil, allowing for slight irrigation and a substantial foundation for seeding and/or fertilizing. Thatching is almost always done in conjunction with the cleanup and is very **highly recommended**. It is effective in both preventive and preparatory maintenance.

Aerating

Aeration, or plugging, is a great way to revitalize your lawn. Aerating increases the air, water, and nutrient movement to the root zone, and helps break down thatch, relieve soil compaction and stimulate new

growth. Aeration will also provide a more responsive environment for fertilizing and seeding. Your lawn will be healthier, and better equipped to handle the extremes of heat or cold so common in New England.

Mulching

The mulching service is one of the most popular during the spring months. Mulch can change the appearance of your property dramatically. Not only does mulch act as one of the most effective weed and sun barriers, but it is also useful in helping to retain water in the soil. Mulch is available in red hemlock, dark pine, and pine/hemlock mix. Mulching prices include mulch, edging, prepping of site, and installation (billed at an hourly rate). A property that has been mulched is both eye-catching and yet another provider of preventive maintenance. **All mulch work is performed on a per man hour basis.**

Liming

Lime is an essential part of your lawn’s diet. Acid rain and tree debris creates a high level of alkaline in the soil. Lime is an acidic neutralizer and soil sweetener, which should be applied regularly to maintain turf areas. Lime will remain in the soil for up to 6 months and should be applied in the spring and the fall. We use a pelletized lime, which eliminates the blowing and drifting usually found with pulverized limes. Pelletized lime also allows for a slower breakdown of the granules. Lime is an excellent source of nutrition in garden areas and aids in the prevention of turf erosion beneath acid-loving and acid-bearing trees and plants.

Fertilization Programs

Essential for healthy lawns and shrubs (see shrub fertilization section). Our lawn fertilization programs include either a 4-Step or 5-Step service. The

2023 Service Directory

5-Step service includes a very beneficial extra application of slow-release fertilizer and iron. This application would be omitted if you chose the 4-Step program. This year we will again be offering a separate **fungicide application** (*). You may choose to include the fungicide application with your turf program. Simply initial the attached **"Spring Mail-Back Flyer"** and we will either estimate or schedule a fungicide application. We have included a fertilization table for the 4-Step and 5-Step programs. *They are . . .*

4-Step Program

- ❑ **Application 1** – Pre-emergent w/Team Pro (19-3-6)
30% slow release
- ❑ **Application 2** – Weed 'n Feed Post-emergent (22-5-7)
50% slow release
- ❑ **Application 3** – Merit Pest Control w/Fertilizer (14-0-14)
30% slow release
- ❑ **Application 4** – Winterizer (18-2-18)
50% slow release, 25% organic

OR . . .

5-Step Program

- ❑ **Application 1** – Pre-emergent w/Team Pro (19-3-6)
30% slow release
- ❑ **Application 2** – Weed 'n Feed Post-emergent (22-5-7)
50% slow release
- ❑ **Application 3** – Merit Pest Control w/Fertilizer (14-0-14)
30% slow release
- ❑ **Application 4** – Fall Fertilizer (28-5-12)
35% slow release, 1% iron
- ❑ **Application 5** – Winterizer (18-2-18)
50% slow release, 25% organic

(*). *Add \$50 per 5,000 square feet of turf area for fungicide*

Both the 4-Step and 5-Step programs include applications of Merit pest control. This control only needs to be applied once and is good for the entire season, unlike Diazanone - which lasts for only 6 to 8 weeks.

Additional treatments of post-emergent weed controls may be applied in the liquid form upon request. This service is useful in controlling the spread of many varieties of weeds (clover, crabgrass, dandelion, etc...) on a spot-application basis. Liquid controls will not fertilize, but they will achieve results more quickly than granular controls. Remember that the first application of fertilizer is the most important, but a program implemented regularly and done in conjunction with turf services may still be the best form of preventive maintenance for your lawn.

Shrub Fertilization

This procedure is often overlooked since many of us do not see as immediate a decay in our shrubbery as we do in our lawns. The majority of shrubbery found in this zone of the country can be very durable. Due to the fact that a large number of plants in this region are acid-loving, acid neutralizers would not appear to be necessary; however, soil does become compacted and depleted of essential nutrients quickly. Foundation shrubs, specimen plants, and plants susceptible to disease and the elements should be fertilized in the spring and the fall. This service includes the use of deep root fertilization spikes installed around the drip line of the tree or shrub. We recommend a spring and a fall fertilization of all flowering trees and shrubs.

Lawn Mowing

This service is by far the most popular of all. It is our specialty service and continues to grow each year. We have included the following mowing service summary:

2023 Service Directory

2023 Mowing Season – May 1st thru October 30th

Service – Cut, bag, trim, blow off paved areas

Policy – Call, or write, to change mowing schedule.

Regular mowing will continue until our office is contacted.

During the spring months, which are the strongest in terms of growth, lawns **MUST be mowed once a week.** Skipping a week, or allowing the lawn to grow beyond a 7-day period may cause clumping, crowding, yellowing, and disease to turf areas. It is also damaging to the equipment; increasing wear and tear to machines, a poor appearance due to yellowing and engine bogging, and additional time to complete the job. Please be advised that **bi-monthly cuttings during the heavy growth seasons (May through June) will be billed at an additional charge for extra time on the property. Additionally, ALL bi-monthly mowings from July thru October will be billed at 1-1/2 times the base rate. An additional charge will apply for heavy leaf pick up in October. Please notify the office if you choose to eliminate the final cuttings and avoid additional charges.**

Keeping your lawn well groomed and healthy is our goal. This can be achieved only with a dependable and regular maintenance program.

Seed, Sod, Hydroseed

The primary causes for turf damage include pest invasion, winter kill, burning, disease, and soil depletion. **Seeding** refers to establishing new grass in bare spots or in new turf areas. **Overseeding** refers to an area where turf is already established. **Hydroseeding** is a liquid seed application to large, bare areas, usually exceeding 2,000 square feet. A water and mulch base with seed and fertilizer is sprayed into prepared soil. Germination is quick. Hydroseeding has quickly become the alternative to hand seeding since it protects new seed, can be more inexpensive than

from heavy traffic for 6 to 10 weeks, or until the new grass has been cut twice.

Sod is the quickest solution to a fully established lawn. Although it is more expensive, it does give an immediate result. With proper care and maintenance, a sod lawn can be picture perfect. Any of these approaches to lawn installation or repair can be effective, but proper and regular care must be taken. There is **NO GUARANTEE** for seed or sod lawns; however, germination of less than 80% may allow for further repair during the next seeding season for the cost of materials only. Labor may be provided at no charge, but will depend on inspection by **Suburban Yard Specialists** prior to any repairs.

Trimming/Pruning

Yearly trimming and pruning of foundation, bed, and perimeter shrubbery is very important. Trimming back overgrowth is essential to stimulate new, thicker growth. A lack of trimming may lead to overgrowth and holes in shrubs, distortion, and unhealthy growth formation. Some varieties of shrubs like privet hedge require more than one cutting a year. Pruning of flowering shrubbery should occur after flowers have bloomed and dried up. Dead anthers should be removed at this time as well. Also available with this service is tree pruning. Overhanging limbs, dead limbs, and crowding may need attention. For larger limb cuts a pruning sealer will be applied. Tree take-downs and difficult limb removals will be handled by our tree removal expert (see Contractor Referrals section). **All trimming and pruning work is performed on a per man hour basis.**

Gutter Cleaning

A necessary service. Clogged gutters and downspouts are the primary reasons for roof rot, fascia board problems, and siding deterioration. Gutters should be cleaned twice, once in the late spring when all oak and

2023 Service Directory

after the leaves have fallen. Since snow occurs in November some years, and a gutter cleaning is not recommended until late November to early December, we will continue to clean gutters as soon as gutters thaw – regardless of time of year.

Landscape / Hardscape Design & Construction

We will help to develop a landscape plan that best suits your property and/or your particular specifications. This service provides a variety of options ranging from:

- ◆ **Shade/Sunny Landscape Designs**
- ◆ **Walkway, Retaining Wall & Patio Installations**
- ◆ **Timber Wall Installations**
- ◆ **General Landscape Design & Construction**
- ◆ **Annual/Perennial Flower Design & Construction**
- ◆ **Plant Replacements and Installations**
- ◆ **Innovative Bed Design and Construction**

This service is available year-round. For more information please feel free to contact us. **ESTIMATES ARE FREE.**

Contractor Referrals

Over the years *Suburban Yard Specialists* has met and worked closely with several very reputable and professional contractors. We are now able to provide you with contractors specializing in specific fields of work other than landscaping, which include irrigation, tree experts, pavers, painters, carpenters, and more. If you have a job that needs doing, give us a call. Chances are good that we will have a referral that will suit your needs. This service is our continuing attempt at providing a well-balanced service.

Suburban Yard Specialists History and Policy(s)

- Established – 1985
- Specializing in landscape maintenance, design, and construction
- Serving Winchester, Wilmington, Woburn, Stoneham, Arlington, Burlington, Lexington, and surrounding towns
- Maintaining an 85% customer retention rate for over 35 years with dependable, reliable service
- Fully-insured
- **WRITTEN ESTIMATES ARE FREE!**
- E-mail accessible
- suburbanyard@gmail.com **OR** mchstein@verizon.net
- Phone messages returned within 24 hours
- Mail-Back Sign-up sheets, Directory(s), Update mailings, Prior business history with SYS available
- Plant installations *guaranteed for season (EXCEPT PERENNIALS)*
- **NO GUARANTEE** on transplants
- Seed/Sod/Hydroseed installations - guarantees available **only following SYS inspections**
- Maintenance contracts not binding – you can cancel or change service, but office **MUST be contacted in writing**
- **Maintenance services are provided on a per man hour basis (inc. cleanups, mulching, trimming & pruning). Mowing and fertilization services are billed at a set rate. Please call, or e-mail for your 2023 rate(s).**
- **Finance charges/late fees (\$10/mo.) apply for balances exceeding 30 days (1.5%/mo., 18%/yr.)**