

Nothing Says Springtime Like Bulbs!

Colorful blooms from bulbs will be a sight for sore eyes after another gray winter. Spring-flowering bulbs of all kinds are a major contributor to year-round color in any landscape. When planning a spring bulb display, here are some basic considerations to keep in mind:



BLOOMING PERIOD

It's important to remember that different bulbs have different blooming times. Mixing early-blooming crocus with mid-season tulips, and then expecting them to bloom together, will lead to disappointment. On the other hand, mixing early and late varieties will give you a longer blooming season.

HEIGHT

Some bulbs grow taller than others. Shorter varieties belong in front. For a more balanced look, plants that vary greatly in height shouldn't be mixed together. Also, very tall bulbs don't do as well in windy spots (blooms and stems can be damaged from wind gusts).

QUANTITY

Bulbs look great in massive plantings of single types, or in beds that combine many varieties. As a general rule, bulbs provide the best display when planted in groups of 15 or more.

PLANTING TULIPS? WATCH OUT!



Tulips are very popular spring bulbs, and for good reason. Unfortunately, however, these beauties are also a favorite food of deer, moles and chipmunks. If you'll be planting tulips, you may want to consider mixing them with daffodils as a means of protection. Daffodils are poisonous to rodents and will help to keep them away.

Above all else, keep in mind that spring bulbs need to be planted soon if they haven't been already. The more time they have to grow roots before the ground freezes, the better. For more information, call us today at 201.670.9000.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome to our first formal Chris James Landscaping newsletter. Our goal is to offer timely information in a quick-read format, three times per year.

The articles will cover landscape and seasonal topics relating to your home, property, etc. If you have ideas, I would love to hear them. Please e-mail me at chrisj@cjlands.com.

The Chris James Landscaping travel chair on Facebook – If you are a full-service client, you should have received your chair by now and the information explaining our game. If not, please contact Michelle at info@cjlands.com.

Join us on Facebook, upload a photo of you or a family member with your chair, and tag us. I hope you find this fun for the entire family. And remember, I'm the good judge; it's my 8-year-old granddaughter (aka Simon Cowell) who needs to be impressed!

This fall has special meaning for me. As the days get shorter and the air gets cooler, I find myself reflecting on our first 30 years in business. I have been blessed to work with, and for, so many exceptional people who have helped make my life fun and exciting. I'm eager to come to work every day wanting more, and for that, I thank each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Chris James,
President



DON'T WAIT TO AERATE

Now that fall has arrived, we'd like to remind you about the importance of core aeration. If you've ever been on a lawn and seen those little plugs of soil and thatch lying around, you're already familiar with the process. Those plugs were removed from the lawn by a machine known as a core aerator.

The simple act of removing the plugs (or cores) benefits turf in many ways. It relieves soil compaction; reduces excessive thatch; and makes it much easier for oxygen, water and nutrients to reach your lawn's root system. Aerating your lawn this fall will promote a more vigorous root system and healthier grass plants. Those grass plants will have an easier time standing up to heat, diseases and drought next year.

If your turf hasn't been aerated yet, we strongly advise you to consider the fantastic value this practice provides. The sooner aeration is performed, the better!



Aeration creates pathways for air, water and nutrients to reach the root zone.



The Colors of Fall

We all look forward to the brilliant yellows, oranges and reds that our trees treat us to in the fall. Sometimes, however, the fall color show just doesn't seem as vibrant. Why is that? And is there anything we can do to promote stronger fall color?

First of all, it helps to have an understanding of how leaves change color. Plant leaves contain various pigments that produce color: chlorophyll for green, carotenes and xanthophyll for yellow, and anthocyanin for red. When days are longer in the summer, chlorophyll is produced constantly. This masks the other pigments and causes leaves to stay green.

Then, as days grow shorter in the fall, chlorophyll production decreases in leaves. This makes the other pigments more visible. If we have warm, bright, sunny days followed by cool nights, more red pigments will be produced – and fall colors will be more striking. On the other hand, if we have cloudy, cool weather, the colors won't be nearly as good.

The weather definitely has a big say in the type of fall color show we can look forward to. But we can have a say too, simply by taking good care of our trees. Healthy trees that are free of stress are known to produce more vibrant fall color for longer periods of time.

With regular fertilization, maintenance-level pruning, sufficient watering in the absence of rainfall, and ongoing inspections for insects and disease, our trees will be much more likely to show us their true fall colors! For more information, and to learn how Chris James Landscaping can help, give us a call today.

Ready for a New Addition?

New plantings can make a big difference in your landscape, and there are many reasons for adding them. With a new tree or shrub, you can:

- Increase landscape interest and curb appeal (ultimately increasing property value)
- Plant a living memorial for a loved one
- Replace an overgrown or damaged plant, or a species that's particularly vulnerable to pest damage
- Add privacy to your property
- Block out a neighboring eyesore from view



Whatever your reasons for planting, trees and shrubs can easily go in now. When planted in the fall, new installations are able to get established quickly. That's because their foliage has stopped growing for the season, making nutrients more available to their roots. Root systems that develop now will be able to support rapid growth and green-up in the spring.

So, why not add to your landscape with that beautiful spring bloomer you've been longing for, or a nice new row of screening shrubs? It's an easy way to enhance your property's looks, and it's good for the environment too!

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