

Alexon Design and Landscaping Newsletter SPRING TRANSITION

In This Issue

[Over-Seeded Lawns](#)

[Non-Over-Seeded Lawns](#)

[Featured Design](#)

Quick Links

[Helpful Tips](#)

[Irrigation](#)

[Plant Library](#)

[Alexon's Process](#)

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March 2009

Dear TJ,

I do not suffer from allergies, so March is by far my favorite time of year. There are so many great things that go on in March right here in the valley. Spring Training baseball is here, which is probably the best value in all of professional sports. The "March Madness" basketball tournament goes on. Our kids have spring break, and the weather is perfect!

And for us in the landscaping industry, it means it is a great time to plant new material, and our business definitely picks up. This time of year is what we call the transition period. You can start to prune off any frost damage that may have occurred on your plants and trees. And it is a very important time for treating your grass lawns. The following information was taken from one of our partner's website at www.evergreenturf.com. Whether you overseeded your lawn with the "winter-rye" or you let your lawn go dormant for the season, there are some great tips for you and your lawn.

Over-Seeded Lawns

When night time temperatures are consistently above 65 degrees for at least five days, it is time to transition your lawn.



1. Begin by lowering your mowing height to gradually remove approximately 50% of the leaf blade. This will create a more open canopy for heat to reach the soil surface and "wake up" the hybrid root system.

You also have the option to aerify your lawn. With

the use of an aerification machine, small plugs of soil are pulled from the ground. This is another way to get the necessary heat to the root system and encourage hybrid Bermuda to come out of dormancy. Please note, aerification should only be done after May 1st.



4. Cut back on water for five days. Don't stop watering completely though, the hybrid root system still needs the water. You want to discourage the ryegrass and encourage the Bermuda. By cutting back on water, the ryegrass will begin to show signs of stress, this is good.



5. Use a fertilizer high in ammonium sulfate. This will weaken the ryegrass even further, but will supply the Bermuda with the nutrients it needs to come out of dormancy more quickly.

Be sure to rake all of the remaining ryegrass as it dies out. If it remains on the surface of the lawn it will shade the Bermuda and take longer to green up.

over-seeded Lawns		
Season	Times per week	Duration
January through March	1	15 to 20 minutes
April	2	10 to 15 minutes
May through October	2 to 3	15 to 25 minutes

Non-Over-Seeded Lawns

If you opted to let your lawn go dormant without over-seeding, you will have a much easier time with the spring transition. Beginning in April, or when night time temperatures are consistently above 65 degrees for at

least five days, you'll want to make some slight changes in your lawn maintenance.



1. Begin by lowering your mowing height only enough to remove the first 1/3 of the leaf blade. Try to avoid scalping at this point, the more leaf remaining at the surface will help absorb sunlight and nutrients.

Rake your lawn well to remove any dead grass or thatch that may hinder the sunlight from reaching the new plant growth. Higher temperatures and sunlight are key components to a smooth and effective transition.



2. Fertilize with a 21-7-14 or 16-8-4 ratio fertilizer every 30 days.



3. Increase watering to twice per week at 15 to 20 minutes each time. Deeper watering will encourage the root system to begin to flourish once again.



4. Once your lawn begins to come out of dormancy, you may also apply "Ironite" to help with the greening process.

Non-over-seeded Lawns		
Season	Times per week	Duration
January through March	1	15 to 20 minutes
April	1 to 2	15 to 20 minutes

May through
October

2 to 3

15 to 25
minutes

Featured Design

Location: *DC Ranch in Scottsdale, AZ*

Designer: *Roger Hagener*

Another fine remodel in North Scottsdale by Alexon Design!

We installed a 4-piece travertine paver right on top of the existing patio and pool deck. We built a gas firepit, gas bbq, and a new lighting package.



This was a great makeover for the pool, and with the addition of the firepit and bbq, we really enhanced the already groomed landscaping. The

large ironwood trees make a great backdrop to the firepit and swimming pool. We up lit the large trees as well to create a wonderful atmosphere at night. The L-shaped bbq is user friendly for both the cook, and people wanting to sit at the bar. If you are interested in having your backyard remodeled, please contact Roger Hagener at 480.570.4256. Or you can reach us at the office at 480.699.7796.

If you would like to renovate your yard, please call the office at **480.699.7796**.

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