



LEVELGREENLANDSCAPING

LEVEL GREEN LANDSCAPE LLC

Commercial Landscape Contractor

139 12th Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003

Newsletter

Spring 2011

Mulching as a Sustainable Practice

Recently, many articles have been written about mulching as a sustainable practice. You may be surprised that these articles are discussing grass clippings and not shredded bark that surrounds your trees, shrubs, and perennial flowers. More and more, increased research is uncovering the advantages of mulching your grass clippings as opposed to collecting and hauling them to the landfill.

If properly cut with a mulching mower, grass clippings can provide between 10 and 25 percent of the grasses' nutritional needs. In general, clippings are 90 percent water, but also composed of up to 4 % nitrogen, .5 % phosphorus and 2% potassium. Due to this high water content, clippings quickly decompose and begin providing turf with the beneficial nutrients it needs. Ultimately, this practice promotes the long term health of the soil, while reducing the need for manufactured fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

As we look at the health of our immediate surroundings and beyond, anything we can do to reduce chemical use now will be beneficial for the planet's future. Mulching grass clippings is another sustainable, yet simple practice Level Green is following to reduce our environmental impact.

Services

- Landscape Management
- Landscape Installation
- Enhancement Services
- Seasonal Rotations
- Design Services
- Snow Removal



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Let Your Grass Grow Out

What many people do not realize is that when cutting your turf, leaving it at a higher height actually helps strengthen it. A longer grass blade/leaf allows a better root system to develop. Generally, the length of the grass blade is the same length as the root, therefore a longer grass blade will mean a longer, more extensive root system. In addition, cutting grass at a higher height means that the taller grass shades the ground and discourages weed seeds from germinating. In more ways than one, longer turf is a more sustainable turf because it requires less water and chemicals to keep it healthy and green.

Gardening Tip:

To remove ground-in garden soil on your hands, add a teaspoon of salt to the lather as you wash.

Spring Bulbs

Most of the spring bulbs have finished blooming and our annuals and tropicals are in the ground for the summer.

Now is the time to begin thinking about the use of perennial and annual bulbs in your landscape for next year. Daffodils, crocuses, and ornamental onions can be used in flower beds in combination with perennial flowering plants, grasses, or groundcovers. They can be used under certain types of shrubs, like roses, which are cut back to the ground every winter.

The bulb catalogs have begun arriving in the mail. Ask us how your dollar can go further by using these long lasting plants that will come back year after year providing reliable color for your landscape. Samples of perennial bulbs pictured below are only a few examples of what can be done to add color to your landscape.

