



The Water Cronicles

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Where do I start?

By Chris Vasecka

Hope you are the one in a million holding the winning March madness picks. If not, join the rest of us. Now let's get serious about spring. The snow has left us with many unknowns. These unknowns consist of the plow demolishing the lawn late last fall, only to be covered up with snow. The neighbor kids using the back lawn as a snowmobile track, the Southside junipers and arborvitae burnt from the winter sun. All of these things have us spinning our heads to search from which to work on first. We need to have an organized game plan to tackle our spring plant problems. Planting seed in early spring seems like a great idea, but will end in frustration as that area will be disturbed too much before the seed even thinks of germinating which will not be until late May. If you truly want success with grass at this time of the season, sod is the only reasonable solution. The snowmobile path in the yard may look like dead grass that you should rake up right away, actually the dead grass is protecting the crowns underneath which are still viable. Don't disturb these until the night-time lows are above 40 degrees. The same goes with any animal trails in the yard. It looks as though they ate all of the grass. They usually leave the crowns alone, which can grow new shoots. The dead grass is a protective layer, which will keep the frost and cold off of the new shoots. Premature reaction to lawn conditions can be even more destructive to damaged grass. Take it easy and work on other projects. As far as the burnt foliage on the Southside plants, allow them to come out of the freeze. Typically we do not prune these plants until June. Once the temps have warmed up, individually prune out the dead brown leaves. It will take until mid to late June before those areas

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will grow back in. Arborvitae and junipers are aggressive plants when the temps are above 70 degrees. It's OK to lightly rake the rest of the lawn and remove any unsightly debris that may still be hanging around. Until then, Happy Gardening.

Stimulate the economy and your Pocket Book.

Every time you turn around somebody is trying to stimulate something. Subsidies are available for everything imaginable. I believe innovation will bring us out of this economic slumber, otherwise we would still be driving in a Horse and Carriage and what would we do without EMAIL. Irrigation Companies are doing everything they can to bring us the newest in technology. From micro spray nozzles to pressure regulated irrigation rotors to Weather based smart clocks, landscape irrigation has finally caught up with the 21st century. All of these new innovations can help to provide better coverage and application of the water you use on your property. The price you pay in the investment will be recouped in the water you save and the consistent landscape that you maintain. The goal as a home owner is to become as educated on all of the available options and then discuss them with a qualified irrigation technician before installation. Many of the conversions are very simple and can be done within a couple of hours, giving you immediate satisfaction without the wait.

Check out a few of these websites for some great ideas.

Microspray conversion for your old spray heads.

MP Rotators by Hunter. [Click Here.](#)

Weather based smart Clock.

ESP-SMT Smart Controller by Rainbird. [Click Here](#)

Smartline Controller by Weathermatic. [Click Here](#)

Irrigation Performance Audit.

Audits by Use Your Water Right. [Click Here.](#)

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Happy Writing
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