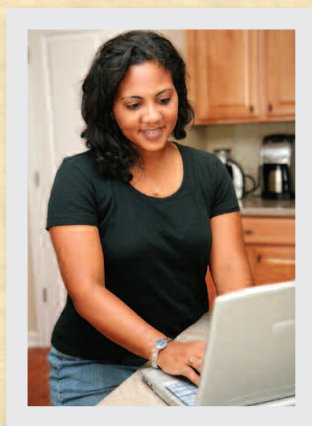




## RxNotes

We're now available online to provide you with valuable information regarding our services. Visit our new website at [rxlawncaresolutions.com](http://rxlawncaresolutions.com), where you can:

- Check Out Our Turf Tips
- Pay Online
- E-mail Us Questions
- View Our Services
- Read Our Newsletter
- Get Newsflashes



### Refer a Friend!

Save \$20.00 off your next lawn application when your friend signs up for our yearly service!

Call today for details.



## The Best Offense is a Good Defense

### CRABGRASS CONTROL IS A MATTER OF PREVENTION

Crabgrass just can't take a hint. No matter how much work we put into keeping it out of our lawns, you can be sure that it will stage a comeback every year. This is a very aggressive annual weed, and just one crabgrass plant can produce thousands of seeds in a season.

The seeds germinate in the late spring and early summer. Once crabgrass plants start growing, they expand outward in circles that can reach 12" in diameter. The plants eventually die off in the fall, leaving behind dead areas in the lawn where new crabgrass seeds are likely to germinate again during the next growing season.

Crabgrass can make a mess of your lawn as it out-competes the good grass you want to have growing on your property.

It is lighter green in color and coarser in texture than desirable lawn grasses, so it can seriously detract from the uniformity of your lawn if it's allowed to gain a foothold.

#### DEFENDING YOUR LAWN

Crabgrass has a harder time getting established in a thick, healthy lawn. In fact, lawns that are under-watered, under-fertilized and growing

thinly provide ideal growing conditions for this opportunistic weed. That's why proper lawn care practices are especially important.

Regular fertilization and sufficient watering (1" to 1 1/2" per week) will encourage a denser, more vigorous lawn that is less prone to crabgrass

invasion. Mowing the lawn high (removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each time) will be helpful too. This works against crabgrass by keeping the soil shaded (crabgrass seeds germinate more successfully in sunny conditions).

For an extra measure of protection, pre-emergent herbicides can be used to hinder crabgrass seed germination. By interfering with a key enzyme during the germination process, pre-

emergents make it much more difficult for crabgrass plants to grow. For best results, pre-emergents should be applied in the early spring before crabgrass seeds start sprouting. And if you're planning on seeding your lawn, it's a good idea to wait six to eight weeks after pre-emergents have been applied. Otherwise, they can prevent your new grass seed from sprouting as well.



*One crabgrass plant can produce thousands of seeds per season.*

#### REMEMBER...

- Crabgrass is very aggressive.
- Healthy lawns are less susceptible.
- Pre-emergents can hinder crabgrass growth.



# Trees Hate Dieting

## YOUNG AND OLD, TREES AND SHRUBS NEED NUTRIENTS

Your trees and other ornamental plants may not need to be fertilized as often as your lawn, but don't put them on a forced diet.

Over the last several years, we've had both too much water and too little at different times. We've also seen some severe temperatures. All of these things take their toll on your landscape. On large (and more valuable) landscape plants, you won't see a quick, immediate response to these kinds of stress. The effects are slower and can stretch out over several years. If a tree or shrub goes through enough of this "rough weather" without help, you'll start seeing a general decline of the plant's vigor and growth. Plants under stress (or in decline) also fall prey to disease infestations much more easily. Healthy trees and shrubs are far better able to get through all sorts of difficulties.

Regular root injections of balanced fertilizers and micro-nutrients help plants recover more quickly and completely from any kind of stress or disease damage. Your trees and shrubs represent a large investment that will keep adding value to your property if you keep them in good shape. Annual or semi-annual feeding goes hand-in-hand with regular disease and insect management.

Give us a call with any questions about what your landscape needs for good growth.



# Giving Back to Your Lawn

Grasscycling, or returning grass clippings to the lawn, is a great way to provide your turf with valuable nutrients in the form of organic matter. You don't want to go overboard, though. Proper grasscycling requires that you mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the grass blade is removed each time. A sharp mower blade is important too, and you should only mow when the grass is dry. Wet grass clumps up on turf and has a harder time filtering through to the soil to add nutrients to it.

A mulching mower makes grasscycling easy by chopping grass clippings into fine pieces for easier breakdown. However, a standard mower will work just as well if you follow the "1/3 rule."

Proper grasscycling will lead to improved soil fertility and water-holding capacity. In the long run, you'll be rewarded with a lawn that requires less time and money spent on fertilizer and water!



Central Valley 209-545-2414  
Tri-Valley 925-803-1122  
Solano County 707-428-5296



## CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT STARTS IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS!

Of all the worldwide environmental issues we can get involved in, probably the most personal and closest to home is the patch of lawn and the trees and shrubs in our own backyards.

Plants contribute to our health and comfort as well as to a better environment. They produce oxygen, filter impurities from the air, reduce the demand for cooling in the summer, act as windbreaks in the winter, and even filter pollutants from surface water.

Our plants also help to reduce the global warming trend we've all heard about, and they reduce noise pollution, too.

By taking good care of your property, you improve the quality of life for your family, your neighbors, and the whole community.

By using professional programs, you get all the environmental benefits, along with proper care, protection and healthy growth of your investment.