



**Special points of interest:**

- If the weather breaks, begin spring clean-up of lawn and landscape beds
- Mow the lawn once it starts to green up—be sure not to mow TOO LOW, set the mower to at least 2" or height. As a rule, you should never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade in a single mowing
- Prune hedges or other unruly shrubs as needed
- Mid-Late March is about the time we begin doing our first round of lawn treatments (weather dependent)

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## Crabgrass 101



Crabgrass can cause headaches for both homeowners as well as lawn care professionals. It is a difficult battle but with the proper understanding and management practices it can be kept in check.

**Identification:** Crabgrass is an unsightly grass-like weed that grows in Iowa during the summer months. It may have purplish stem and tends to form "mats" in your lawn.

**Effects:** One of the main effects of crabgrass is that it will keep the other grass plants in the area from growing--eventually spreading and taking over an area. Crabgrass is very efficient at reproducing and will seed several times throughout the growing season. These seeds can survive over the winter and will be ready to germinate next spring when the temperature and conditions are right. This is where the use of a pre-emergent can be beneficial.

**Prevention:** Thick, lush lawns work best against fighting off crabgrass as they can take up more of the soil's nutrients and block out the sunlight from the ground. Also, mowing regularly and keeping the lawn at least 2.5" or higher during the growing season will aid in the prevention process. Fertilize your lawn throughout the season to help keep the weeds in check.

**Treatment:** While many homeowners worry about crabgrass once it appears, the best time to take care of it is before it starts. Once it gets started, getting rid of it can become a labor-intensive process. Using a pre-emergent product in the Spring can be one of the most critical components in fighting this battle. However; it needs to be put down at the correct time. This will ensure that the new crabgrass seeds will not begin the germination process. These products work best when the soil is moist and the grass is actively growing.



## Spring Irrigation System Start-up

It's that time of the year again. As we say goodbye to those cold winter days, plants and lawns are beginning to green up. This also means that it is time to get your irrigation system start-up scheduled. You will want to make sure that everything is up and running correctly before the season gets underway. When performing the start-up on your system, our certified full-time technicians will perform a backflow test, safely reintroduce the water back into the system, check for any winter damage and make repairs as needed, examine the entire system to ensure that it is operating the way it should be. They will also reset the controller and make sure the programs are set up correctly. By working through each one of these steps, your irrigation system will be correctly recharged and ready to give you the best looking lawn on the block! Give us a call TODAY to get yours scheduled as the dates will start filling up fast!!

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