



Caring for your Colorado Landscape

Brought to you by the experts at Swingle



Some of life's
BEST MOMENTS
happen in your
yard.



In this issue...

Denver Zoo Pollinator Garden

What to Expect in 2016

Q&A with Expert Tony Hahn

And much more!



Tom's Talk

By Tom Talkacz, CEO

The weather is warming and soon our landscapes will be in full bloom. Count on Swingle to keep you updated and informed on what you need to know about how to care for your Colorado landscape in 2016.

We're excited to announce the opening of our new northern Colorado regional headquarters located at 4104 Sable Ave in Firestone, Colorado. We expect to open our doors the first week of March. Strategically located along I-25, the new facility will allow for more efficient routes and better access to service our customers.

We are also very excited to share the news of our partnership with Denver Zoo. Together, we are creating a Pollinator Garden at the Zoo to provide information and education about honeybee and pollinator conservation.

Our 2016 predictions highlight some issues to be aware of this year - one of them being emerald ash borer. You'll start to hear more about EAB as communities, like the City of Denver, work to educate residents about the risks and solutions regarding their ash trees.

Thank you for continuing to trust the Swingle team for all of your landscape needs.

We look forward to making your life more enjoyable this year and for many years to come.

Thomas R. Talkacz, CEO

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Proud Partners



In Colorado, Fertilizing Your Trees and Shrubs is Important

Trees and shrubs need supplemental nutrients in order to maintain their beauty and health as they grow in Colorado. The nutrients trees and shrubs need changes as they mature. Swingle's **Certified Arborists** recommend the treatments below for each stage of a tree or shrub's life.



1

First 4:

Specifically formulated to increase root development for newly-planted trees and shrubs. This treatment is recommended once a year for the first four years after planting. Once established, your plants will transition into the next stage of fertilization.

2

Root Builder:

Root Builder provides the necessary nutrients to enrich the soil for healthy structural growth to help your trees and shrubs flourish. This treatment is recommended once a year until the plant develops into its mature stage, which typically takes many years.

3

Root Builder Mature:

Designed to encourage active root growth in your mature trees and shrubs. This fertilization treatment is recommended once a year to maintain the beauty and health of your trees and shrubs throughout their mature life.

Need to replace a dead or dying tree or shrub? Swingle offers 2x the average warranty on plantings*.

*Swingle provides a two-year warranty on the planting of deciduous trees, compared to most companies in the Front Range who only offer one-year or season.

Ask the Swingle Expert...



Tony Hahn

Landscape Care Consultant, Certified Arborist
The "voice of Swingle", as seen on our local Colorado TV stations.



Should I water my lawn over the winter and in early spring?

YES. But neither require you to activate your irrigation system, which could still be susceptible to damage from below freezing temperatures. Watering with a hose-end sprinkler or nozzle is fine. A short 5-10 minute watering will provide enough moisture. Remember to disconnect your hose from the house to prevent future freeze damage.

Pay close attention to the south and west facing areas of your lawn (especially if it's sloping), and around evergreen trees and shrubs. Turf mites are one of the most damaging lawn pests. Watering over the winter and in early spring will help mitigate turf mite damage, help keep lawn roots healthy, and provide much needed moisture to the evergreens.

Should I have my lawn aerated or power-raked?

AERATE. Aeration is critical in the spring because root growth tends to accelerate this time of year. Lawns also grow very quickly from April through June, and need oxygen and nutrients which aeration helps with. Clay soils are predominant in most areas of the Front Range. By nature, these soils are low-oxygen soils and aeration introduces oxygen into the root zone.



Do not remove the plugs from the lawn after an aeration is completed. Let them dry out in the sun, then mulch them back into the lawn with the lawn mower. Power-raking is a ruse, I never recommend it. Mowing with the blade at a lower setting will remove the dead grass without ripping out healthy grass blades.

Is snow mold a problem in Colorado?

YES. In the 35 years I've been caring for Colorado landscapes, I have not seen the problem as serious as it is this year. Cooler temperatures prevented the snow from melting, creating the perfect conditions for snow mold growth.



Snow mold damages bentgrass lawns more than bluegrass, ryegrass, or tall fescue lawns, which are more common in the Front Range. When the snow melts away, just lightly rake the matted areas and they should be fine. After raking, an aeration can also help. If you're unsure of what type of grass you have or if snow mold is causing issues, just call and we'll come out to evaluate it for you at no cost.

Is a sharp mower blade really that important?

YES. Dull mower blades are an invitation for lawn diseases, leave you with ragged cuts, and cause your lawn to dry out faster. Replacing the blade is an option, or you could use a metal file to sharpen your mower blade once a month if possible. Of course, using a power grinding tool works best if you have one. If you have a mowing service, make sure to ask them how often they sharpen/replace their blades each season.

When is the best time to fertilize in the spring?

SOON. I like to fertilize my lawn sometime in March after the snow melts, then again in early to mid-May. Most Front Range lawns are "cool-season" grasses, which grow best from April through June. Fertilizing when the grass is growing quickly provides key nutrients at the right time, thickening the turf and promoting deeper root systems - ideal for during hotter, drier months. A thick lawn also helps keep weeds out.



IRRIGATION *Check List:*

- Confirm coverage area - does it reach the entire lawn and other desired areas?
- Check the performance and range of each sprinkler head in each zone.
- Evaluate the functionality of the main controller.
- Set a watering schedule based on sun exposure and municipal water restrictions.



Contact Swingle today to schedule service!

Not available north of Highway 7

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Free Lawn Evaluation Schedule today!

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Swingle Partners with Denver Zoo

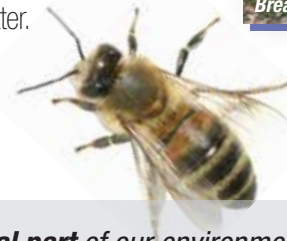
Swingle is partnering with Denver Zoo to create a pollinator garden to help educate the public about the importance of pollinator conservation.

"We are proud to have Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care as the presenting sponsor of Denver Zoo's **The Birds and The Bees Pollinator Garden**. As a partner in Denver Zoo's pollinator conservation efforts, Swingle is supporting education programs focused on teaching individuals about the plight of pollinators, like honeybees, and how to protect them." - Denver Zoo

Work is underway at the site, with the Grand Opening coinciding with Pollinator Week from June 20-26. For all the latest updates, connect with Swingle and Denver Zoo on Facebook or Twitter.



Breaking Ground at Denver Zoo



As pollinators, bees are a critical part of our environment and food supply, which is why Swingle believes it's important to take precautions to look out for bees (and other pollinators) while performing services for customers.

Emerald Ash Borer WILL Spread

- Though still in Boulder County, we believe this destructive pest will begin migrating by **June of 2016**.
- Populations are still building very rapidly in northern Boulder, and hundreds of trees are dying. They **show no signs of slowing down**.
- Experts agree that EAB **has in fact traveled outside of Boulder**, but has yet to be detected.
- Across the Front Range, **15 to 20 percent of the urban forest is made up of ash trees**. Within a decade, we believe the borer will spread across much of that area.
- The Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) Forestry Division is rolling out a public education campaign about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). They **now understand the severity** of the situation and are being proactive in educating the public of the long-term effects of EAB.

"Ash trees in Denver can be found throughout residential properties, public rights-of-way, parks and green spaces. These ash trees perform important functions, including cooling the landscape and mitigating air pollution and storm water runoff. It is critical we activate a public awareness campaign to help stop the infestation of Emerald Ash Borer in our community."

- Rob Davis, Denver City Forester

Treatment is still your best course of action!

Schedule with Swingle!



2016 Landscape Predictions

In 2015, Colorado landscapes were met with their share of challenges. Here's what you can expect in 2016...

GIANT CONIFER APHID ACTIVE SOON:

Mostly found in pine, Douglas-fir and spruce trees, the giant conifer aphid has long burdened Colorado landscapes. Growing up to 1/4 inches, adults are long-legged and generally gray and black.

The giant conifer aphids feed on the sap from twigs and branches, often in large groups. Heavy infestations cause a yellowing of foliage, needle drop and occasionally cause dieback of shoots. Populations are usually highest in late spring, but continue to proliferate as the season progresses.

Trees with known infestations should be sprayed in late spring, early summer and again in mid-summer if the population persists. It is also important to inspect all trees (throughout the season) to ensure infestations are controlled.

ELM AND WILLOW SCALE POPULATIONS INCREASE:

These insects often go unnoticed in landscapes and though adults are immobile, they still cause irreparable damage. Their damage can often be serious, causing dieback of branches and plant fatality. Scales are sucking insects similar to aphids - feeding on the sap of twigs and branches.

Sprays and injections are both used in order to manage these pests effectively. Swingle predicts the willow scale will finish off aspen trees that have been infested yearly, and elm scale populations will continue to increase.

CRANBERRY GIRDLERS TO FEED ON LAWN ROOTS:

The cranberry girdler is a species of moth found recently invading Colorado. Despite its name, the most damaging stage of the cranberry girdler is a worm-looking grub found in lawns, predominantly in the Denver metro area.



The grub feeds on lawn roots just under the soil line. As its name implies, girdler grubs also feed on the base of cranberry plants - girdling the plant and eventually killing it. Misdiagnosing this pest is common as the damage to lawns looks similar to drought stress. If you see signs, it's best to have an expert evaluate your lawn.

JAPANESE BEETLE BECOMES A REAL NUISANCE:



The Japanese beetle is becoming more established in the northeastern part of Colorado. The beetle commonly feeds on lawns, roses, Virginia creeper, crabapple, linden, elm and many others.

Beetle grubs attack healthy lawn roots, causing brown patches to appear during the early summer months. While brown patches in lawns can be caused by multiple reasons, they are more easily

identified on trees, shrubs, and roses due to their bright green appearance on foliage. Japanese beetles, both in lawns and on trees and shrubs, require additional treatment or the damage will be irreversible.



EFFECTS OF NOVEMBER FREEZE STILL FELT:

After the unexpected polar vortex in November of 2014, many trees and shrubs were damaged or died from the dramatic temperature change. Sadly, the effects are still being felt in 2016. Pruning dead branches and practicing good horticulture can help. We'll know more as spring approaches.

PINE WILT DISEASE LOOKING FOR WARM SPRING:

Pine wilt is a fatal disease, which attacks Austrian and Scotch pine trees. The disease is caused by a microscopic worm, which quickly multiplies in the water conducting tissues of the tree - eventually clogging vessels and causing it to die. While the disease has not been severe of late, we believe its impact will not be immediately evident. Nematodes require a warm spring to multiply rapidly, but the last two have been fairly cool.

Austrian pines seem more resistant to the disease, however it may take a few seasons before signs of infestation appear, and by that time it's often too late. Symptoms include dead branches among healthy ones.

HOT WEATHER ON THE WAY:

Weather sources predict it to be a dry summer along the Front Range. It may seem illogical, but now is the time to prepare your plants for the dry summer ahead. Our ReCharge™ program provides deep root watering - aiding in growth and drought resistance for the summer months.

Our experts monitor moisture levels by county and only provide the service when it's absolutely necessary (less than 2" of moisture in 30 days). It's important to note: 1" of snow does not necessarily equal 1" of moisture.



Swingle has treatment options and solutions for the landscaping issues above...and more!

Suspect problems in your landscape? Call us today - 720.381.2439 | 970.284.8031



Spring 2016

Pollinator Garden
at Denver Zoo!

Q&A with Expert Tony Hahn

What to Expect in 2016

Why Fertilize Trees & Shrubs

And Much More!

Get ready for spring!

Who does your lawn?

4 out of 5

Swingle Lawn Customers
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4 out of 5 based on 2015 lawn care customer retention of 84%. 20% offer valid for NEW customers only.

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Your complete fertilization program will be scheduled from spring to fall, with no additional charges.

Benefits include:

- Provides even growth and beautifully consistent color
- The correct amount of nutrients for a full, dense lawn

ALL SEASON LONG:

Guaranteed weed control.

WEED CONTROL:

Pre-emergent weed control treatments included to prevent crabgrass and spurge.

INSECT CONTROL:

Insect control (for most common insects) as needed throughout the season. As an additional benefit, we also provide evaluations for Japanese Beetle grubs throughout the year. If treatment is necessary, additional charges will apply.

FREE COURTESY VISITS:

For any problems or concerns you may have with your lawn.

