



Lawler Park Landscape

August 2016

A Community Newsletter

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Annual vs. Perennial vs. Biennial

At the garden center, you often see the above words on flowers and plants, but what do they mean? It's actually pretty simple.

Annuals include plants that live, reproduce and die in a single growing season, or **live just one year**. Whether you plant seeds or seedlings, an "annual" will sprout, flower, seed, and die all in the same year. This includes leaves, stems and roots. These bright and showy plants tend to bloom all season. They are also typically cheaper than perennials. Popular annuals include: vegetables, zinnias, marigolds, vinca, and impatiens.

Perennials are plants that live, reproduce, and grow for **three or more growing seasons**, or year after year. Typically grown from seed or bulb, the top portion of the plant will die back each winter and grow again the following spring from the same root system. Many perennial plants keep their leaves year round and offer attractive borders and groundcover. Common perennials include: trees, roses, peonies, mums, daylilies, hostas, purple coneflower 'Magus', Tickseed, Shasta, Ox-eyed Daisy, as well as many herbs.

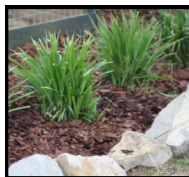
Biennials grow for two seasons, but don't actually **bloom** until **the second year**. These are short-lived, and require two years to complete their life cycle. The first season, a small rosette of leaves will appear near the soil surface. The following year, stem elongation, flowering and seed formation will complete the cycle, and then the plant will die. Some biennials include: poppies, Sweet William, Foxglove, and Dandelion.



Mulch for a Better Landscape

Mulch gives your lawn a clean finished look, but did you know that mulch is very beneficial to your plants and soil to:

- Reduce soil erosion and evaporation
- Moderate soil temperature fluctuations
- Discourage weed growth
- Improve soil structure and nutrients as it decomposes
- Improve water penetration and air movement
- Protect shallow-roots from freeze and frost-heave?



Mulch to aid in tree and shrub health. In the natural environment, trees and shrubs gain nutrients from decomposing plant material such as from fallen branches and leaves or plants which have died. In landscaped areas, most dead or dying plant debris gets removed and surrounding plants and grass must compete with trees and shrubs for nutrients. Mulching can aid in health significantly by adding back some lost natural nutrients.

Mulch around flowers and plants. For proper insulation during weather extremes, mulch to help retain moisture in the soil during summer heat and insulate roots against winter freeze. Mulching will also reduce soil erosion during heavy rain falls.

When to mulch? Mulch at least annually. Generally, mulch can be applied anytime during the year.

How to mulch? Prior to mulching areas, clear all grass, weeds, and leaves. Apply a mulch layer of 3 inches for a good effective covering. Most mulch materials provide the same level of service and come in a variety of colors and sizes. Selection is typically based more on appearance preference and cost.

Mix them up! Staggering various types of plants can result in beautiful year-round blooms, year after year. DM/dsm



First Impressions

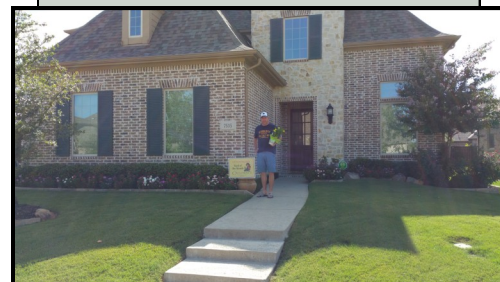
Whether it is meeting new people or interviewing for a job, we have all heard the saying that "**the first impression**" is the most important and lasting one. It is no different with our neighborhood. The appearance of our yards and the outside of our homes is "**the first impression**" a person sees when visiting or driving through the neighborhood. So what can we do to create a good "**first impression**"?

- Water our yards on a regular basis
- Mow and edge weekly
- Keep our yards and flower beds weed free
- Keep shrubs trimmed back
- Plant perennials and annuals for year round color
- Fertilize and use pre-emergent throughout the year
- Replace mulch annually
- Remove trash receptacles from streets and alleys (placing them out only on trash collection days)
- Maintain fences and re-stain when necessary
- Keep entrance ways and yards free of clutter and trash

Each doing our part will keep a great "first impression for our neighborhood." JW/dsm

August Yard of the Month!

Congratulations neighbors, Stephen and Kimberly Leach at 7535 Shackelford, on a well-maintained yard!



We're on the lookout! Will your yard be next?

To nominate a yard, please email us at:
LawlerParkLandscape@gmail.com.

The winner will receive a \$25 gift to
Calloway's Nursery!

Autumn blooms in September. Thanks for keeping Lawler Park looking great!