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emerald lawns ink

Lawn Watering Conservation and Management Newsletter



water efficiencies in irrigation

by Ron Soukup



Wireless Rain Sensor

With all the recent news stories on drought conditions throughout the U.S., the irrigation industry has experienced some great challenges. In addition, every time I pick up a newspaper or trade publication inevitably there is an article about going "GREEN". With the increased pressure on limited water resources, and water policy regulation under consideration by local and national units of government, Emerald Lawns has taken some proactive steps to assist you in creating efficiencies in your irrigation system. These efficiencies will not only be beneficial to your landscape but will save you money in the long run.

We have become an EPA WaterSense Partner, which demonstrates our commitment to this effort. Under the EPA's WaterSense

program, the specifications set technical requirements for certifying landscape irrigation professionals. By receiving this certification, we have proven to the EPA the ability to design, install, maintain and audit water-efficient landscape irrigation systems.

At the top of the list of strategies to creating efficient irrigation systems, are irrigation controllers. There are varieties of new controllers on the market that have been deemed SMART. These controllers can receive daily updates in the form of radio signals or internet downloads to adjust the baseline schedule in the controller. In addition, rain-sensing technologies have improved. If you still have an older rain sensor, now would be a great time to upgrade to a newer wireless rain sensor (left). Please check out the contract to find out more about the wireless rain sensor we recommend.

We would welcome a dialogue with you to discuss these strategies and implementation in your landscape. Please feel free to call us at our offices at 1-800-794-8242.



The new Water Sense clocks are now available from Emerald Lawns. We carry a wide variety of manufacturer controllers that can increase your water efficiency by up to 16%.

The Emerald Lawns Advantage

We are very grateful for the opportunities you have afforded us in the past. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the continued years of doing business with us. As we look forward to the future of our company, we understand the need to support you. We are committed to recruiting, training, and retaining the best people in the business.

To continue providing you with the superior service you have grown accustomed to at Emerald Lawns, we have established specialized divisions within our company to offer support in planning for new and existing projects. This is just another way we honor our promise and commitment to you. You chose Emerald Lawns for a reason; now find out what other services we can provide for you. Thank you again for your business!

Water Management and Conservation

Emerald Lawns is your premier source for conservation solutions, and a leading authority on the latest water management products and trends facing our industry. We are committed to keeping you informed of the latest product technology from key manufacturers in the industry.

Backflow Assembly Testing and Maintenance

We have become specialists in this sector of our business. We are certified by the Minnesota Department of Health to test and maintain backflow assemblies. In addition, we are the only Irrigation contractor in Northern Minnesota who is a Restricted Master Plumber licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry. (see back page for more information)

Landscape Lighting

We offer a large selection of lighting fixtures from premier manufacturers – perfect for enhancing the beauty and safety of your home or business. We have access to the widest range of lamps and lenses available, from advance xenon technology to your common favorites. We are pleased to assist you in selecting the perfect lighting options for your project.

Injection Systems

We also offer injection systems which apply rust removers and nutrients through your irrigation systems. Rust removers can provide city and well water clients with a preventative measure against the buildup of iron on your buildings and landscape.

Holiday & Christmas Lighting (Christmas Décor)

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year to share with loved ones. Why worry about decorating the exterior of your home, when you can have the professionals at Christmas Décor do it for you? Our seasoned Christmas Décor designers and installation crews can make your house look like a “Christmas Wonderland”, decorated exactly the way you want. Everything is handled for you—the lights, supplies, decorations, and manpower so you can spend your time enjoying the holidays!



Have you seen our website lately?

Visit us online at www.emeraldawns.com and learn more about the services we provide, from new installations to products we use and how to prepare your yard for the different seasons. While you are there, you can also learn more about our financing options as well.

MNLA names new chair of Irrigation Industry Committee



In November of 2007, Ron Soukup of Emerald Lawns was named the incoming chair for the Irrigation Industry Committee (IIC). Ron has been an active member of the committee since 2001. The IIC's main objective is to advance the interests and enhance the professionalism of contractors, designers and suppliers who specialize in landscape irrigation. “I am very honored to be named to this position,” states Ron, “the irrigation industry has been my livelihood for over 25 years and this appointment gives me the opportunity to assist my colleagues in their endeavors to the professionalism of our industry.”

In December, Ron attended the Irrigation Associations 28th Annual International Irrigation Show in San Diego. Over 7,000 people attended the show with a contingent of 20 irrigation professionals from Minnesota. You can expect Ron to lead the Irrigation industry Committee forward as they stay on the leading edge of our industry trends in water conservation and education of current and future irrigation professionals.

Trade Associations
we have partnered with:



Licenses:

Technology System Contractor
#TS00231

Restricted Master Plumber
#068699-MR

Backflow Certification
#97-01615-T

WIN 1 of 6 FREE HANGING BASKETS from Kelly's Cottage Garden of Park Rapids!

Return your contract by 2/23/08 to qualify.
We will contact all winners by phone.



Does Your Screen Look Like One of These?



if it does...

Upgrade now to Emerald Lawns' exclusive intake screen. They are **custom-made** for Minnesota lakes and rivers. Our screen is constructed from 5" woven PVC plastic and designed to assist with peak pump performance. The benefits include:

- More reliable filtration
- Less restrictive flow rate
- Increased pump longevity

If you don't already own our screen, please mark the appropriate box on your contract under Suggested Services/Products and we will schedule your new screen installation with your Spring Start-Up.

CONTRACT SERVICES

◆ Spring Start-Ups

This is our most popular service. We come out and get your system up and running for the spring while setting up the controller for the new season of watering. Most of our customers choose this service for reliability and peace-of-mind.

- Set pump and intake screen (pump systems)
- Turn on water source (test and/or repair)
- Turn on backflow devices/PVBs (if necessary)
- Install new battery (if necessary)
- Set controller and operation
- Set Rain Sensor
- Turn on the sprinkler system
- Run and adjust all sprinklers and zones
- Perform any repairs or replacements required*

** Repairs and replacements will be made only if necessary and billed out separately.*

◆ Summer Long/Worry Free

Emerald Lawns was the first to offer this monthly service to Northern Minnesota. In 1987, one of our seasonal lake home owners asked for a monthly program because of their unexpected departures. This way they always knew their system was operating correctly when they returned to the lake. From there its all history...

- Check controller operation
- Adjust zone timing for seasonal conditions
- Clean intake screens for pump systems
- Run and check all sprinkler and zones
- Overview yard for proper coverage
- Perform any repairs or replacements required*

** Repairs and replacements will be made only if necessary and billed out separately.*

◆ Fall Winterizations

This is one of the most important services of all maintenance options that we provide. One forgotten or missed procedure can be a very costly mistake. This is why we **Guarantee** our own installations from any damage or repairs.

- Turn off the supply water, city water or a well system and drain the backflow devices
- Remove pump and intake screen (pump systems)
- Shut off controller
- Drain backflow devices, properly setting ball valves
- Blow out system (replace water with air)
- Remove battery (if necessary)

the need for backflow prevention assembly testing

All of our residential, commercial and rural customers have some form of backflow prevention installed on their irrigation system. Certain backflow devices (RPZ) are required to be tested annually pursuant to Minnesota Plumbing Code. In addition, most states recommend that Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVB) be maintained and tested every four years or sooner due to harsh winter conditions. It is just a matter of time before these units potentially fail and contaminate our potable water. With your help, we can work together to protect our most precious resource.

If you have a backflow device, Emerald Lawns has designed a specialized kit just for this purpose, which includes labor. Our



certified technicians can replace the seals and test the unit for proper performance. Refer to your contract for special pricing or call our offices at 1-800-794-8242 for more information.

injection/rust prevention add-ons

When using a Rust Remover system—prevention is the key. Our formulated products PREVENT stains and scale caused by iron in well or city water from building up on walls, sidewalks, fences, shrubs and other elements of landscaping. They are concentrates that must be mixed with water in the feed tank of the injection system. Our formulas are biodegradable and non-carcinogenic and will not harm grass or shrubs, with normal application.

When the sprinkler system comes on, the injection system automatically pumps and feeds a polymer into the sprinkler system and deposits it through the normal watering of the lawn. The polymer coats the iron particles in your water so that rust cannot

stick to a surface. We also provide a rust remover solution that we can apply to take off existing rust from the sides of your home, patios, sidewalks and landscape. The solution is applied and washed off within minutes to provide you immediate gratification.

Emerald Lawns has always upheld the promise of protecting your landscaping investment by a properly designed system, adequate watering schedules and now, with injection can keep your property as an investment and not an eyesore. Feel free to contact us at 1-800-794-8242 for more information on injection and rust removal systems.



Left, before rust remover
To the right, after rust remover



emerald welcomes



Emerald Lawns is pleased to welcome a returning family member to the company, Frank "Chip" Soukup III. He is very familiar with the irrigation business, as he was previously employed with Emerald Lawns for the first nine years of its history. After college, Chip pursued advertising and marketing production for 17 years.

In 2007, Chip returned to the installation crews to assist in growing this aspect of the business. He finished the year working with Frank Jr, in the sales department as well as working with Christmas Décor. His expertise in design and printing as well as his knowledge in this business will enable us to better serve our customers.

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