



May 2011

## Whether or not you noticed, the weather this spring has been really, really, lousy!

The relentless moisture this spring has affected all of us. On the plus side, we did 3-4 times the amount of seeding this spring than we normally do and the seed is loving it. However, how we got work done, or anything else, has us baffled. So far, since the start of our season in March we have had only one stretch that we worked 3 or more days in a row without rain.

Now, about all of that spring seeding we've done! Every article on seeding that we write in our newsletters specifically says, **"fall is the best time to seed"**. I think a lot of you looked at your lawn last fall following that extreme summer season and said, "lets wait until spring and see how it looks". Well guess what, it didn't look any better in the spring than it did in the fall! So the only options left are to do spring seeding or wait until the fall. The conditions this spring have been ideal for seed, wet and cool. However, if we have a typical Baltimore summer you can look for high temperatures and drought conditions to hit some time around mid-June (father's day) and take a toll on those young seedlings. Fall seedlings will be safer because they produced roots last fall, went dormant for the winter then produced more and deeper roots this spring. Other than dead areas, a good indicator your lawn is in need of seeding services is a constant re-occurrence of broadleaf weeds through out your lawn through out the season. Take a look at your lawn now, because it isn't going to get much better from this time forward. If you're wavering on seeding now, just go ahead and make arrangements now for fall seeding/renovations services now, because, **"fall IS the best time to seed"!**

**TURF DISEASES** are just beginning to show up! Red thread is the predominant disease we are seeing at this time. It usually shows-up as brown patches approximately 4"-6" in diameter and has a red tinge mixed in with the brown grass blades. This problem is more cosmetic than detrimental to turf. Usually, mowing and time will make it go away.

**TIPS** ...We *don't* recommend collecting **clippings**, as they can return up to 1lb of nitrogen to the soil annually. However, if you do collect clippings to compost let them age for one year before using as mulch. During drought periods, **water** your lawn. It needs the equivalent of 1" of rainfall per week. The key is to water less often, but, longer each time you water.

**REMEMBER**, with your lawn program comes season long control for broadleaf weeds. Anytime you see weeds reoccur, call our office and we'll come out and spray them **FREE!**



Red Thread in Fescue