



# ESTATES LANDSCAPING

8015 MAYFIELD ROAD  
CHESTERLAND, OH 44026

(440) 729-7800

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RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPING SINCE 1999

## Fall Color Coming Soon to a Yard Near You

Peak time for fall color can happen at any time, but the 2020 Farmer's Almanac suggests that for us, the time will be October 5 to 14 for peak fall colors!

If you're curious to know, the Almanac recommends one special place in our area of the U.S. to take in the fall colors. It is Lake Geneva Area, Wisconsin. "Wisconsin's farmlands, lakes, streams and rivers, combined with an abundance of oak, maple and hickory trees, make it a popular destination for viewing fall leaves.

A trio of Wisconsin quiet rustic roads (Routes 11, 12 and 36) make for nearly 20 miles of scenic fall driving. Also consider booking one of the foliage cruises on Lake Geneva for a truly colorful experience." *Source: [www.farmersalmanac.com](http://www.farmersalmanac.com)*



## Grass is Coming Along Great

Our lawns are finally feeling relief! If your lawn had evidence of stress, from July's excessive heat, now is the time to do the repairs. We can boost our turf's health now with aerating and over-seeding.

Those of us with tall fescue grass will notice the yellow color of the blades because of the heat. Now is the time to rake it out and over-seed to help the turf thicken up and look healthy again. Special types of seeds can be chosen for this to be more heat and drought tolerant. Our starter fertilizer will help the roots develop for a stronger growth next spring.

Well-textured soil is always necessary. By aerating our lawns, we allow the roots to get air and water for better growth. Compact soil will smother the lawn! Rain and nutrients need to penetrate the soil for the grass to do well. **Now is the time to aerate!** If it's been a few years since we aerated your lawn, give us a call to get on the list. We'll take care of it soon. *Source: [www.SiteOne.com](http://www.SiteOne.com)*



## The Gardens are Blooming – “All’s Right with the World”

Robert Browning's poem was written over 100 years ago, but it sure is nice to think that “all is right with the world.” These days, during a pandemic, it's hard to keep focus that everything will be alright, but we're strong and we'll see this through!

Many of us are working and learning from home now, and our backyards have turned into an oasis. Not only is it a way to escape the indoor environment, but our gardens are a wonderful way to reduce stress and feel the comfort of a natural environment. As an extra bonus, a thoughtfully landscaped outdoor area can enhance your home's value through increased curb appeal!

If you are new at gardening, know that just because summer is winding down, it doesn't mean you should stop planting. As the days get cooler, you might want to plant some cool weather vegetables. Spinach, broccoli and most of our salad greens enjoy cooler weather. If you can find these plants at the garden centers, they are probably on sale! How fun to know that your late September and October salads came right from your yard! Healthy and home grown – what's not to love!



## Looking for something to do with the Family?

### ***Add a Green Hour to your routine***

Set aside one hour a day for unstructured outdoor play somewhere new. (Start with 15 minutes if you feel like an hour might be too much for your younger children.) As you feel comfortable with the prospect, give your kids the reins to explore “wild” spaces independently.

### ***Mark the change of seasons***

Since most of us aren't waking up in the morning to milk the cows and feed the chickens, it's easy to lose touch with the rhythms of the natural world. One way to remember the natural cycle is to make note of seasonal milestones — like the upcoming solstice—on your calendar and celebrate the changes together.

### ***Paint a flower rainbow***

Gather fresh white flowers (carnations, daisies, and Queen Anne's lace are all good options), and arrange one or two each into small vases or jars of warm water. Snip the submerged stems with a diagonal cut, keeping them under water the whole time. Add 20 to 30 drops of food coloring to each container and watch as the flowers slowly change color!

### ***Explore a new place***

[www.naturefind.com](http://www.naturefind.com) hooks you up with a list of parks, trails, and other nature sites within a chosen distance from your home so that it's easy to find new nature stomping grounds.

### ***Give your child a piece of land to care for***

Taking responsibility for a piece of land gives kids the opportunity to build a hands-on relationship with nature. You can keep it simple, stocking a bird feeder or caring for a plant on the back porch, or engage your child in more complex activities, like creating a backyard habitat or planting a vegetable garden.





## Trees Older than 400 Years – There are quite a few in our area!

Do you have a big tree in your yard and wonder how old it is? The most accurate way to determine the age of a tree is by counting the growth rings of a severed stump, but there is a noninvasive way to estimate tree age in common trees where they are grown in a forest environment.

The International Society of Arborists says that "tree growth rates are affected tremendously by conditions such as water, climate, soil conditions, root stress, competition for light and overall plant vigor." So, only use this data as a very rough estimate of a tree's age.



Begin by determining the tree species and taking a diameter measurement using a tape measure 4.5 feet above stump level. If you are using circumference, you will need to make a calculation to determine the tree diameter: *Diameter = Circumference divided by 3.14 (pi)*. Then calculate the age of a tree by multiplying the tree's diameter by its growth factor as determined by species (see list below). Here is the formula: *Diameter times Growth Factor = Approximate Tree Age*. Let's use a red maple to calculate age. A red maple's growth factor has been determined to be 4.5 and you have determined that its diameter is 10 inches:

**10 inch diameter X 4.5 growth factor = 45 years**

Silver Maple Species - 3.0 Growth Factor X diameter

Sugar Maple Species - 5.0 Growth Factor X diameter

River Birch Species - 3.5 Growth Factor X diameter

White Birch Species - 5.0 Growth Factor X diameter

Shagbark Hickory Species - 7.5 Growth Factor X diameter

Black Walnut Species - 4.5 Growth Factor X diameter

Black Cherry Species - 5.0 Growth Factor X diameter

Red Oak Species - 4.0 Growth Factor X diameter

White Oak Species - 5.0 Growth Factor X diameter

Pin Oak Species - 3.0 Growth Factor X diameter

Source: Steve Nicks [www.thoughtco.com](http://www.thoughtco.com)

