

M I C R O E N V I R O N M E N T S

Controlling excessive ground and surface water is a challenge when conditions change in a landscape. As landscapes mature, small environment changes called microenvironments can develop and exist side-by-side. An example of a microenvironment would be a tree casting shade on a small area of turf. The area outside the shadow requires more water than the shaded area. In this instance there are two separate microenvironments that, although are within 1' of each other, have completely different needs. These microenvironments are not always taken into consideration during the planning or installation stages. In time, these conditions become noticeable; in this case, poorly performing plant material and excessive dampness. There can be a number of features in a landscape that function in one area and are a problem in another. This article will focus on the soil dampness and ways of dealing with it.

SITUATION: There is a high concentration of trees and the surrounding area is sloped toward the trees instead of away from the trees. The result is standing water many times during the year whether from the irrigation system or precipitation. If this condition were between buildings such as a breezeway or green belt, it would be further compounded. There may also be the additional problem of the same valves providing water to irrigate both the areas in full shade and full sun. The water schedule cannot be reduced to an optimum level for the shaded area because the plant material in full sun would be lost due to insufficient irrigation and vice versa.

SOLUTION: Thin or remove some trees and/or split the valves (increase the number of existing valves) to allow separate programming on valves for the shaded area and separate programming for valves in full sun area. This would result in proper amounts of water being scheduled for specific areas, thus reducing plant stress and conserving water.

Please contact our office to discuss where microenvironments occur on your property. We have the expertise necessary to recommend changes that will optimize the performance of your landscape.



Spring Landscaping Punch list

Soil Test

Determine the best course of action to take, develop a plan and budget ahead.

Ornamental Pest Control

Get pests under control early and avoid permanent damage to your ornamental landscaping.

Install Color

For best quality and selection, order color early. This will ensure availability when you need it.

Snail Bait

Start early and get them under control before they can do real damage to new growth in the spring.

Irrigation

Check for leaks that may have developed over the winter, broken pipes and prepare for the hot months ahead.

Fire Marshal Abatement

Save time, money, headache and lives by removing the growth near and around buildings that is a hazard in the hot summer months.

Fertilize

Summer is too late to capture the prime spring growing season for plants and also may be too hot for some fertilizers.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you do a Soil Test Report?

Depending on the size of your property, a Soil test can be done with as few as one sample. This sample is then sent to a laboratory for analysis.

How long does it take?

The test sampling is very fast and in most cases can be taken in less than one hour.

How much does it cost?

A basic report can cost as low as \$50. A more comprehensive report will run \$100 to \$150.

How soon will I have the results?

Results are usually received in two to three weeks.

How will the information be used?

A comprehensive fertilization and treatment program will be developed using the data from the report.

Will I see immediate results?

Visual results can usually be seen in about one month.

Do I need to do another one every year?

Yes. This report is easy to do and very cost effective. Since conditions can change from year to year, we recommend a new test every spring.



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