

# MAY 2018

Wolbert's Plant Essentials

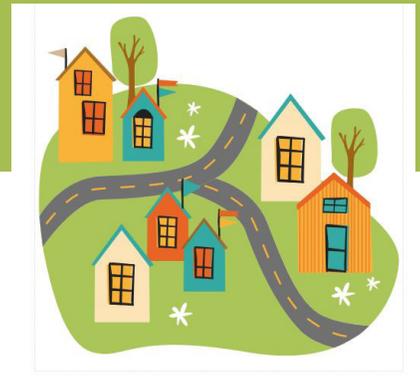
## Essentials

The grass really is greener on our side 😊

### This month in the landscape

360-491-7711

www.wolberts.com



### Will your irrigation system be ready when your lawn needs it?

Now is a good time to make sure your irrigation system is in good working order. Better to replace a broken head now, then waiting until those tell-tale dry spots appear. Also, the annual growth of trees and shrubs in your yard can interfere with intended coverage in beds.



### A handy check list for spring start-up

Turn on the water supply at the meter, cut off valve, or isolation valve, depending on the set-up.

- Verify operation of back flow device and service, if necessary.
- Flush, service, and close any faucets or other access points. (pool or fountain fills, etc.)
- Verify that the mainline is intact and the meter comes to a stop (no leaks).
- Verify that the controller is working correctly. Reset time, date, or other program data.
- Turn each zone on and verify correct operation of each valve.
- Walk through all zones to check all sprinkler heads for correct operation, coverage, and measure/calibrate output. VERY IMPORTANT!
- Adjust heads and rotors as needed; making any needed repairs.
- Verify that all zones have shut off properly and re-check meter for movement (leaks)

Remember! This will be the busy season for irrigation companies, so if you need professional help, call our office for referrals sooner rather than later!



### We've Grown by Word of Mouth

Our business continues to grow because so many of you have referred us to your neighbors and friends! Remember, if someone mentions your name when signing up for service, we thank you for spreading the word with a \$30 referral bonus check. Again, thanks for talking about us!

### That odd patch of grass could be *Poa trivialis*



Light green aggressive growth in spring



*Poa trivialis* die-back in summer heat

Rough bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*) is a light green perennial grass somewhat similar to annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) that creates thick mats of stems, choking out areas of turf. Its tolerance for shade makes it particularly aggressive in shady lawns. Because of the color difference and rapid growth, it can be aesthetically unappealing. It thrives in cool weather and moist soil, and dies back as summer heat arrives. Though it looks dead, the plant's stems survive underground, waiting for cool weather to return to resume growing. The large bare spots left when it goes dormant in

*continued on back*

## Poa trivialis *continued*

summer can mimic a fungal infection, and is often mistakenly treated as such. While there are no selective herbicide solutions for *Poa trivialis*, it can be controlled with a non-selective herbicide like glyphosate (Roundup) carefully applied in Spring. We recommend using a Weed Wand for this process, to minimize off target applicaiton. After dieback is evident, resulting bare areas can be reseeded, provided you have adequate irrigation to support young grass plants through summer.

## Employee Spotlight:



Josh has been on the Wolbert's team for one year. He spends most of the time on the WeedFoe crew, but can be seen treating lawns as well. Josh drives a vintage Volvo and is currently restoring his 1977 Toyota Chinook camper. Josh is an Eagle Scout, and he's into the outdoors, videography, cycling, and finding new places to eat.

Visit our website

**wolberts.com**



**This month's  
plant pick**  
**Royal Raindrop Crabapple**

Eye-popping magenta pink blooms, deep purple cutleaf foliage, sparkling red fruits and bright fall color give all-season appeal to this easy-care flowering ornamental. Superior disease resistance, adaptability, plus heat and drought tolerance make this unique crabapple a crown jewel among trees. Refined, uniquely shaped leaves emerge glossy deep purple and maintain their rich color through the heat of summer. Fall color is a medley of bronze, orange and purple. Tiny, persistent, bright red fruits appearing in late summer are prized by wildlife and add winter interest without making a mess. This prime example resides here at Wolbert's Central. Neal Wolbert planted it in April of 2011, using the root wash method. Root washing allows identification of the first primary roots so the correct planting depth can be determined. It also eliminates the soil interface problem: when a root ball is planted in new soil, roots prefer staying in the comfort zone of the old root ball. They resist moving into new soil material, eventually "choking" themselves and causing dieback. Root washing removes the old soil, so the roots can have a clean start. There is no reason to wait to plant; washing can safely happen in full leaf, even in bloom, as this Royal Raindrop Crabapple was. You can find more information on root washing at wolberts.com.

## Serving our community:

Help make a difference locally by supporting organizations like:  
First Responders Making a Difference



First Responders Making a Difference was formed to provide police and firefighters with the resources to help an immediate need they experience during a call. There are times that immediate really means **immediate**, and the red tape typically involved to procure and disburse funds to those in need can come too late. The idea is: see a need, meet a need. It is a unique cause delivering compassionate assistance—making a difference in the community they serve. To learn more visit <http://www.firstmad.org/>