



Summer 2019



# The Picture Perfect Times

A Newsletter from  
Picture Perfect Landscape / Christmas Decor

*Celebrating 27 years of service*



Ron and Picture Perfect Team

**Summer** is finally here and it's time to get out and enjoy the outdoors after such a cool wet spring! July-September is a perfect time to get those projects done before the kids go back to school and while the weather is dry. Take advantage of our flexible scheduling now that the rush of spring is over. Did you put off that project because your spring was too busy? Maybe its something as simple as cleaning up your planting beds and updating the look of your dated or damaged landscape with some newer lower maintenance shrubs. Over the years walkways and patio areas usually need some cleaning up due to dirt and debris from trees like pollen and sap or moss/weeds. Pavers and cobblestone need resetting or walkway edging can pop up over time especially with Connecticut's fluctuating temperatures. Weather (rain and snow) sure can do damage in a short period of time especially causing drainage issues that only worsen over time if not addressed properly. Perhaps Mother Nature's critters are to blame-insects like ants, chipmunks and moles are the top 3 homewreckers and need to be addressed each season. Maybe you would like to create your own backyard oasis off your deck or patio with either a low maintenance sitting garden or cooling water feature. Design a fire pit area to enjoy with friends and family during the evenings especially going into the cooler autumn season. Extend *your* living space outdoors this year and enjoy the beautiful New England weather...



Kim office manager and sales

Give us a call or email today and our landscape team can show you how!!!

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87 Main Street, Hebron Office



## Patios

*Cleanup an area and entertain family & friends!*



## Walks & Plantings

*Simple Easy to maintain for busy homeowners*



## Midseason Maintenance



**Pruning & Weeding:** Seems like it hasn't stopped rainy since last summer! And with 2 late springs both having March snowstorms back to back seems like the trees, shrubs and weeds are on steroids. After such a rainy spring it is important to make sure you do not ignore your plantings. That means if they are getting overgrown you have to give your plants a pruning sometime after the 4th of July since new spring plant growth is pretty much done for the rest of the year now that the heat and some drier weather is here. If plants and especially shrubs and ornamental trees become leggy, they are more prone to breakage in the late summer/early fall wind storms and any heavy winter snow. Also keep on eye on the weather especially with dry and hot conditions that can exist during the summer. You will have to give your plantings and lawns a deep watering at least once a week or you risk stressing out your trees and shrubs. Strees makes plants and lawns more prone to disease or insect damage. **Gator Watering bags** can help assist with watering trees providing slow watering down deep to the roots. **Mulch:** Dress-up planting beds with fresh mulch. Mulch helps retain moisture keeping plant roots cool, creates a barrier for weeds, and gives your landscape a finished look. We sell and deliver our dark brown, shredded, pine/hemlock bark mulch for your landscaping needs. We can either install it for you or just deliver it so you can do it yourself. Also remember to use weed spray like Roundup, Natria or Avenger to kill existing weeds and then Preen weed preventer sprinkled on top of mulch, stone or sweep it into the joints of your walkway, drive or cobblestone. Visit our website for more info on landscape and lawn maintenance tips and Call us today for a quote on our weeding, pruning & mulching service. It's time to spruce up your landscaping for summer!



## Weed, Prune Edge Beds & Mulch



## update plantings with summer color

Planning a summer party? Spruce up your landscape & impress your friends & family by visiting our website for new ideas on updating your yard. A little change can go a long way.

Create useful areas in your backyard that you can enjoy with your family and friends. *Cut down on lawn areas and weeds with mulch or larger river stone...*



Clean Dining Space for Entertaining



**Outdoor Patios Areas:** Many homeowners are putting a lot of thought & planning into their home additions these days. There are many options available.

You can include the use of partially enclosed gazebos with either canopies or pergolas as a roof for shading and adding privacy. Sometimes an oversized patio umbrella and an outdoor fan is all you need to get some cool shade. Create a clean outdoor living space with a view of your backyard for the warmer seasons by installing an open gazebo/canopy on a patio with side curtains for privacy and protection from the elements and insects. You can even create different areas on a concrete paver patio for sitting & relaxing with a good book, grilling, enjoying a fire, children's area with picnic table, entertaining with friends around a bar...the ideas are endless. Let us design an outdoor patio designed for your lifestyle and specific needs keeping in mind easy to take care of. Great for entertaining or just relaxing after a long day and it will give many years of enjoyment for both family and friends. Call us today for a free consultation & quote. Take advantage of our more flexible summer schedule and explore *your* possibilities today!!!

**Extend your family's quality time outdoors this summer with an inviting fire...**

One of today's hottest trends in outdoor entertaining is incorporating fireplaces, outdoor fire pits, and grills or chimneys in your backyard so you can enjoy a cozy fire during spring, summer, and fall. For decades homeowners out West and down South, have extending their quality time outdoors with family and friends by installing heating elements that are functional as well as enjoyable. Instead of the pool or Jacuzzi that doesn't quite get used as often when company comes over, they create an area with benches and chairs with an inviting fire to gather around safely. Enjoy a delicious meal outdoors and then have a place to converse or to enjoy romanti-

Customize a backyard living area for cleaner usable space and your lifestyle...



Fire Pit Kits



Above is a more informal area to relax and enjoy. Created with cobblestone edging, crushed stone and mulch.

We are a Unilock® Authorized Contractor



Unilock fire pit area and sitting wall for entertaining.

[www.perfectscapes.com](http://www.perfectscapes.com)

# Retaining Walls



Concrete Walls offer grading and retaining solutions with style and durability



# Sloped Areas

New or replacement concrete stairs and stepping stones for sloped areas



# Custom Patios



Create usable space for your family's outdoor activities and add value to your home





Once the hot temperatures of July are past and we get to enjoy the much cooler evenings of August and September. This makes it easier to keep grass seed moist during germination. The young plants have **better growing conditions** without extreme heat. Most of the **weeds** that compete with grass are dead and **diseases** are under control for the rest of the year. Weed and disease chemicals cannot be sprayed on new grass without injuring or killing it.

## New Lawns have better success in late summer.

The new grass will have the fall and spring **seasons to mature** before facing all the stress of next summer: heat, traffic, competition, mowing, inappropriate watering, diseases, etc.

Planting at this time of year avoids several **springtime problems**: cool soil temperatures delay germination; soil may be too moist to prepare; weeds dominate the early growing months. Higher percentages of seed germination are likely since soil temperature and moisture levels are more favorable or can be controlled more readily. Plus you can apply weed control once the grass is 5-6 weeks old and has had it's first cutting.

\*The best time to seed lawns is from late summer until early fall (August 15 to September 20) while the soil is still warm. Late summer lawn seeding is best because the soil is still warm (faster germination), watering will not be as much of a problem, there are fewer weed problems, and the cool season grasses in the mix will have a better chance of getting established.

Water seeds in thoroughly with a fine mist. Once the seed is planted, make sure that the soil is kept evenly moist until germination. After the seeds germinate, you can water more heavily but less frequently. **DO NOT OVER WATER**, and do not use a strong spray. You don't want to drown the seeds, nor do you want to wash them away.

Water will continue to be a prime concern for your new lawn. About one inch of water per week (rainfall plus irrigation) will be required until your lawn is well established. You may mow a newly seeded turf when the grass is 2 1/2-3 inches tall. Use a SHARP mower so the grass is cut cleanly, and the plants are not pulled out of the ground. Do not cut the grass too short, about 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches is a good height. After the first mowing you may apply a high nitrogen, turf fertilizer (23-4-6) at one-half the application rate recommended on the bag. Water immediately to prevent possible foliar burn.

Update your mature and overgrown landscape by removing unwanted plants and adding some color and interest with low maintenance trees, shrubs and perennials.



Lower Maintenance Designed Plantings...



Add curb appeal with color and textures including cobblestone edging with either our premium mulch or some riverstone

July-September are great times to plant: beautiful plant and tree selection for summer color available this time of year!



## Some Tips to Help Your Landscape Survive Summer's Sizzle



The long, hot, dry conditions of summer can tax the endurance of many plants. For plant success this summer season, follow these tips:

\***Adjust Watering Schedules**-Water needs will increase as the temperature rises. Water in the early morning or late afternoon for best results and you won't burn the leaves of your plants or lawn.

\***Check Irrigation Systems**-Replace clogged drip emitters and repair leaks. Increase emitter numbers and adjust emitter placement on trees. For sprinklers, place cups

or cans out into your lawn, turn your system on and check for uneven coverage to determine problem areas.

\***Mulch Plant Roots**-Replenish organic mulches around your plants each year to improve soil, reduce moisture loss & keep roots cool during the summer months. Keep mulch away from plant trunk or main stem.

\***Pruning** not only keeps shrubs and trees looking good, it also eliminates unnecessary foliage that takes more watering; plants like to conserve water and energy during the summer. Plus leggy plants and tree branches are more prone to damage in the fall and winter.

\***Weed Removal**-Weeds can compete with landscape plants for water and weaken or destroy your trees and shrubs. Remove the weeds by hand or checkout our articles on weed control alternatives-

<https://perfectscapes.com/blog/landscape-plantings-weed-control-2/>

**Picture Perfect recommends applying both Roundup or other type of weed killer (for existing weeds) & then Preen which works for about 8-12 weeks (to discourage new weeds) to your beds to dramatically decrease weed growth & cut down on maintenance.)**

*Proper plant care and watering will keep your landscape healthy and looking Picture Perfect all year long.*



# Services We Offer...

Complete Design Service (1,2, and 5 year phased plans available)

- ◆ Walkways Patios and Outdoor Areas-Landscape Plantings Plant bed pruning, edging, and mulching; also privacy screening trees and lower maintenance plantings
- ◆ Retaining Walls, Playscape or Shed Area and Water Features: Waterfalls, Ponds, & Streams
  - ◆ Christmas Décor Holiday Decorating & Lighting

We have the vision, the right people, the experience, & the most productive tools and processes to achieve one goal. To be able to give you the best service available!

## New pool installed recently? Does your pool area need to be redone?



River stone and low maintenance plants



Concrete Paver Patio with Darker Border



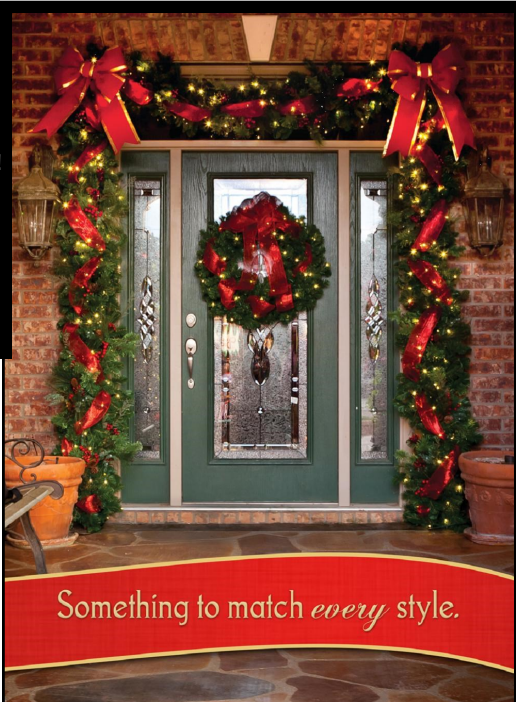
Starting in October...This will be our 20th Season of Decorating: **WE DO IT ALL FOR YOU!** Our Full Service Program offers our clients convenience. We design, install, maintain, remove and store our top of the line, commercial quality holiday lights & decorations for you to enjoy. New LED C9s and mini-lights use 85% less energy than regular lights!

### Christmas in July Specials-

New clients save up to 20% off and

Existing clients Incentives for renewals before August 31st

- Roof and Ground Lighting with LED C9 bulbs
- Windows, Trees, and Shrubs with LED minilights
- Commercial quality garland, wreaths with or without lights
- Bows and Specialty Decor such as Ornaments and Signs
- Outdoor Digital Timer and electrical setup



Something to match every style.



**CHRISTMAS DECOR SERVICES** by Picture Perfect Landscape