



P.O. Box 5212  
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**MNLA GRAND AWARD  
Special Projects Category**

Garpiel Landscaping was part of a unique patio project in 2010. We spent over 2 months working on the renovation of a Saginaw Township backyard. This project teamed Garpiel Landscaping, LLC of Saginaw with Designsapes, Inc. of Frankenmuth. The results were a backyard that will bring the homeowner years of outdoor enjoyment as well as the prestigious MNLA GRAND AWARD - Special Projects Category. This project included a pergola with built in lighting, heaters, speaker system, retaining walls, raised planters, seasonal and perennial plantings, as well as extensive paver work. A unique aspect of this project is that the design called for the reconstruction of a 20 year old paver patio. We were able to turn the existing paver material into a completely renovated, elegant backyard area built to entertain!



# Crabgrass

Crabgrass is the most commonly found grassy weed in Michigan lawns. Crabgrass grows vigorously in full sunlight and high temperatures and will easily out compete cool-season grass under those conditions. The most notable areas in your turf would be along the driveway, sidewalks and rubber edging. Crabgrass is a summer annual. This plant has a life cycle of less than one year. Summer annuals germinate in the spring, grow through the summer and die at the first hard frost. These plants produce a tremendous amount of seed that may lay dormant for years. It's said that one year's seeding equals seven years weeding. The primary and most effective weed control tactic in a lawn is proper mowing. It has been estimated that regular mowing eliminates some 80 percent of weedy species. Other cultural practices, such as regular fertilization, can further reduce weed competition by increasing turf grass vigor. Open and weak turf grass areas promote crabgrass infestation because of higher soil temperatures, which enhances germination and decreases competition. The best defense against weed invasion is a dense, healthy turf grass stand. A thick turf canopy can effectively shade the soil and reduce the number of seedlings that are able to establish.

**We can help!!!**



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## A NOTE FROM

*Rob Garpiel*



As I write this, it is gloomy and spitting snow. However, very soon it will be bright, sunny and warm! Our team has worked during the winter months to be more responsive to client service requests.

I have put people in

place and designed systems to offer a more proactive approach to taking care of our clients' properties. Most recently, we added to our team a young man by the name of Bill Flynn. Bill is a recent graduate of Saginaw Valley State University and holds a bachelors degree in Business Administration. Bill is our Business Development Associate. There is a good chance you will see Bill this summer on our property. He is in the process of learning our business from the ground up. Bill demonstrates qualities that align with our core values, which are Quality - Integrity - Trustworthy. Bill is a valuable asset to our team, and I hope you get to meet him as we move into spring!

We have set up a credit card payment system which is now available. We will be accepting Visa and MasterCard for your convenience. For more information or questions regarding our credit card acceptance, please call our office or email at: [officemanager@garpiellandscaping.com](mailto:officemanager@garpiellandscaping.com).

Lastly, we have set up a facebook account. Please send a friends request as we will be adding valuable resources and special promotions!



## EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire), native to Asia, was discovered in early 2002 in south eastern Michigan. Emerald Ash Borer, also known as EAB, is a small beetle, no larger than a penny. In its larvae, EAB chews tunnels beneath the tree's bark, depriving the tree of nutrients and water, causing the tree to die from the top down.

EAB pest is not selective when it comes to ash trees. All 700,000,000 ash trees in Michigan are at risk! *Don't move firewood. It Bugs Me!* You may have seen these bumper stickers on cars the last few years. Several counties in the Lower Peninsula are under quarantine. Do not move ash wood, because this will continue the spread of EAB.

Treatment for EAB: If you have an ash tree that has less than 50% of its canopy, it is probably too late to save the tree. Ash trees should be treated before infestation if possible. Trunk injected insecticides can give your ash trees a minimum of two years protection from EAB. Call our office today to receive an estimate to save your valuable ash trees. One of our state certified pesticide applicators would be happy to help save your trees.



## Water Conservation: Saving you money this summer!

Remember last summer when you received your first water bill and couldn't believe how much water your irrigation system had used? You're not alone! Garpiel has the solution to lower your cost of operating your irrigation system while keeping your lawn green.

### Did you know:

- One of the best ways to optimize water usage is to have your controller adjusted once a month for seasonal weather changes.
- Cycle and Soak is one of the best ways to water your lawn. Rather than one long run time, let us set it to run 2-3 short cycles. (We install a Hunter controller with this function built in.)
- Change mist head spray nozzles to stream rotor nozzles. A couple of popular brands of these stream rotor nozzles are the Hunter MP Rotator and the Rainbird Rotary Nozzles.
- Drip irrigation is about 20% more efficient than watering shrubs or a garden with a spray head.
- Residential outdoor watering accounts for 7 billion gallons of water used each day in the U.S., and the primary usage is landscape irrigation.

How many times have you been driving down the road and seen an irrigation system running while it is raining? Today, all irrigation system manufacturers produce some sort of weather sensing device. The most common is a rain sensor, but other weather based controllers are more efficient at measuring conditions.

The EPA has come out with a labeling system for high efficient irrigation controllers and systems. "WaterSense" labeled controllers must be able to adequately meet the watering needs of a landscape without overwatering.

By fixing these issues and updating old worn out heads or a controller with new high efficiency products you, can save up to 40% on water usage.



To most people, a grub is a grub. If you've seen one, you've seen them all. In the state of Michigan, there are two varieties of grubs that we most commonly see: the Japanese beetle and European chafer. The European chafer may be the most serious grub pest of home lawns. Although not as wide spread as the Japanese beetle, the European chafer is more damaging to your turf in areas where both are found. Unlike the Japanese beetle, the European chafer is not a problem in daily irrigated turf. The European chafer grub is slightly larger than the Japanese beetle grub. It feeds later into the fall and starts feeding again earlier in the spring. They have even been known to resume feeding in the winter months during warm spells. Turf damage caused by grubs is most severe in drought conditions, when water stressed plants cannot grow new roots to replace injured one. Damage is observed when turf

fails to turn green in early spring. Major infestation areas may turn brown and die during prolonged periods of dry weather in the fall or spring.

### Here are some helpful hints to combat your European chafer problems:

- Keep your turf moist from the last week of June into the early part of August. European chafer won't lay their eggs in moist soil.
- Over seed your turf, with a Tall Fescue blend of grass. It is more drought tolerant and has deeper root growth.
- Increase mowing heights when grubs are laying their eggs in the early part of July.
- Fertilize regularly to help promote a dense and healthy turf stand.
- **Be sure you are taking advantage of Garpiel Landscaping's Free Grub Prevention Program! Call us today to get on the list!**