

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

A SCRAPBOOK OF DESIGN/BUILD OVERHAULS

IPM in action

THE MISSION

Beneath the weeds and the grubs lies a beautiful lawn, waiting to be revived.

This residential lawn account was acquired by Farmside Landscape & Design in 2004. Kentucky bluegrass sod, specific cultivar unknown, was installed approximately five years before. It appeared the sod had been installed and maintained improperly. Layering had developed between native soil and sod layer, compaction was evident and roots were barely penetrating. Frequent shallow watering also enhanced shallow rooting. Thatch build-up was excessive, and very tough to penetrate. Grub history was evident, and disease activity was heavy, particularly those associated with poor construction, such as necrotic ring spot and summer patch.

The property is also bordered on both sides by poorly maintained lawns with high weed populations. A large row of deciduous trees running the length of the lawn had created a microclimate where the trees, surface roots and turf competed for nutrients and water in approximately 25% of the lawn area.

Rick Kalish, turf health care manager for Farmside Landscape & Design, led a team to help bring the lawn back to life.

The basic management strategy on this lawn is a six-visit program based on integrated pest management (IPM). Soil testing was done at the start and approximately every three years to address pH. Fertilization is done five times a year using 25% to 50% slow-release nitrogen sources.

Exact phosphorous and potassium ratios are manipulated to meet those needs as indicated by the soil test. Late spring through late fall applications use organic-based bridge fertilizers with 30% to 50% organics.

Initially, core aeration was done annually to help break down thatch and increase nutrient and water penetration. It also helped reduce compaction and encourage deeper root development.



PHOTOS COURTESY: FARMSIDE
LANDSCAPE & DESIGN

THE WORK



1 | Sweat equity. While Farmside initiated the overhaul of the lawn and does scheduled visits, some of the responsibility is shouldered by the homeowner, who does his own mowing and cleanups. An automatic underground sprinkler helps with irrigation.

2 | Proof of program success. Exposure on this lawn is a combination of full sun and partial/heavy shade. The turf is healthy and weed-free, even with the little sunlight it receives in the shaded areas.



3 | Root of the issue. One of many shallow roots in the lawn area, competing for nutrients and water with the turf.

4 | Here comes the sun. This north-facing photo shows shade in the foreground from the trees along the southwest property line, with roadside and driveway trees in the distance. The turf is exposed to full sun in the middle ground.

5 | On the shady side. Tall deciduous trees reside across the lawn by the street, with a few on the opposite border of the yard.



6 | A noticeable difference. A fairly distinct line separates the lawn of the client, right, and his southwest neighbor's lawn.

Headquartered in Wantage, NJ, Farmside Landscape & Design offers a complete range of services, from design concept, hardscape construction and landscape installation, to plant and turf health care and maintenance. This particular project garnered a 2010 Environmental Improvement Grand Award from the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). Learn more at Farmside.com.

Author's note: These photos were all taken on June 25, 2010.