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Dear Friends and fellow citizens of the Lakeshore Area,

Not all that long ago we were complaining about all the snow, ice and cold temperatures that we all had to put up with for what seemed like forever. Then came April and May and we continued to complain about below normal temperatures. June followed with record rainfall for many areas. How are we doing so far?

For those of us who have spent our entire lifetime here in the Lakeshore area, we have experienced many, and sometimes very dramatic weather changes. We are used to it, although as we get older, it is not as easy to adjust. We almost expect such changes. As I am typing this, the weather is typical July, warm and humid, with thunder lightning and rain all occurring. That's today, tomorrow the high is supposed to be in the mid to upper 60's, more like late April or early May. So it goes here in the Lakeshore. We have all heard the old saying; if you don't like the weather today, wait, because tomorrow will be different. Sometimes just a matter of minutes can bring a change.

What is the point of all this weather talk? Just as it is hard for us to adjust, it is also hard for plants to adjust. This past winter was a difficult one. Rain, snow, ice, cold and mild; not a good combination for plants and even turf. There was damage and lots of it. Because of all the snow, the deer expanded their menu to include plant varieties that they normally consider junk food.

As we now move into our 2 months of summer, our lawns and plantings should finally experience normal weather. Don't let all the rain in June and the wet start to July fool you. Things are wet enough now, but that can change very quickly. A prolonged stretch of hot and dry weather, and some are predicting that could be here by next week, can dry things out very quickly. New plantings and new turf will dry out first because a fully developed root system is not present. Keep the watering wands and the sprinklers handy. Also throw in a little plant food and fertilizer to maintain plant health and appearance.

Grubs in turf grass have been a serious problem over the past several years. They will be back this year. As we have been doing our plantings recently where sod removal was required, we have seen both the insect and caterpillar stage, so grubs are here. If you see symptoms, small dead areas (early stages), or areas in your lawn where it appears

something has been digging, you better respond or what appears to be a small problem can quickly develop into a serious problem. By the way, the small dead areas are the result of the grubs feeding on the root structure of your turf killing the above ground foliage. You know what the areas in your lawn that look like something has been digging are? Those are areas in your lawn where something has been digging, most likely skunks. They are digging for the grubs. Deer like Arborvitae, skunks like grubs. Neither is a good situation.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please call us or e-mail us. We will do what we can to help you. I may have sounded like I was complaining when I wrote about the weather. The truth is, we like it hear and hope to be here for many years to come. Thank you citizens of the Lakeshore for your support. We truly appreciate it.

In the annual Herald Times pole, we were voted best landscape company in the lakeshore. We are very thankful to all the people that voted for us and especially thankful to the lakeshore residents who allowed us to be a part of their landscaping. Awards are nice, but the greatest reward that comes our way is each day our staff at Lakeland Landscape Service has a work order to fill. That means that someone is willing to put their trust and confidence in our company, our employees and the products and services we provide. Thanks again lakeshore residents.

I hope you all had a great Fourth of July weekend. We live in great community, a great country. Do we have issues to question or complain about? Probably. If we focus on the negatives, life will be pretty miserable. If we focus on the positives, and there are many positives for all of us, we will realize that even with four-dollar per gallon gasoline, things are still pretty good.

As we enjoy the freedoms that surround us every day of our life, may all of us say a prayer of thanksgiving for all of our blessings. Say a prayer for people of other nations who have not been blessed as we have. Say a prayer for peace in our land and peace throughout the world. Say a prayer for all of our troops, for their spiritual and physical well-being.

Have a great summer!

Jerry and Linda Haupt
Lakeland landscape Service