

About B'nai Zion Cemetery

When reflecting upon our beloved Cemetery we think about memories, faces, and events. We hold a high respect and devotion, especially when we visit our loved ones. It is with this in mind that we, the Cemetery Committee and All Care Lawn Services, our contractor for the maintenance of the grounds, often meet to review and discuss different concerns, strategies or changes that arise throughout the year. We always hope to improve this peaceful resting place. For these reasons, we would like to share the latest report with you and inform you about a plan that has been implemented and is underway at the moment.

To begin with, there are currently many types of grass at the Cemetery: Bermuda, Bluegrass, Carpet Grass, and Bent Grass just to name a few. Because of this, we decided to reseed the Cemetery with K-31 Tall Fescue grass, mainly based on the price, 50 lbs. of this grass costs \$ 50.00, as opposed to 15 lbs. of Bermuda grass costing \$ 60.00. With proper attention, Fescue grass will stay green throughout the entire year, including summer, which happens to be the toughest season for grass.

Last year, we experimented with the Holocaust Memorial Circle and successfully eradicated weeds, it has lasted an entire cycle and it still continues to improve. After evaluating these results, we began reseeding our own cemetery. As you enter the gates, you may notice on the left side (right next to the Temple area) the greener section that is even greener at this time of the year. Our reseeding efforts continue to show large improvements in the quality of the grass. Having said this, we would like you to know that this is a continual work in progress. Our goal for the entire Cemetery is to have strong and mature Fescue grass, we believe this will take approximately five years to accomplish since it will be done section by section.

Our next goal is to eradicate weeds, which is also our biggest challenge. We must remember that our cemetery is surrounded by large portions of land producing different kinds of weeds year round, making this a continuous battle that at best may be kept under control but difficult to completely eradicate. At the moment, we are using two methods of attack. A Pre-emergent treatment is applied in February to kill the resilient types of weeds. In the growing season, we make sure to use Post-emergent treatment (Battleship) that kills the weeds but does not harm the lawn. We would also like to inform you that this year's unusual rainy season has caused an unseemly eruption of weeds. Moreover, Spider mite on the Italian Cypress continues to be a challenge. As of now, the miticide applications are keeping this issue under control.

On another note, because the Cemetery is over one hundred years old, we face another major challenge - the irrigation system. We are now 100% on the PVC system as the old cast iron system was beyond repair. Since we switched over, the maintenance cost has significantly dropped.

With all this said, we truly appreciate your patience during these long-term projects. As always, we are available to congregation members who request a walk-through of the Cemetery and will be happy to explain in detail what we are doing to improve the final resting place for our loved ones. We are here to serve you and our community. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Mario A. Aranda
Cemetery Committee

Thomas V. Carey
All Care Lawn Service