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"Landscape Design~Construction~Property Management Since 1985!"

Your April 2023 "Garden Tips" Professional Tips For Beautiful Landscapes

April truly begins the annual celebration of Spring's beauty and renewal of life displayed in our trees, shrubs, and of course, spring bulbs! We confidently look forward to this beautiful annual event, which we wish to extend with summer and fall flowers, and healthy, vibrant trees, turf and shrubs.



A Celebration of Spring!

PRO REMINDERS

[] Combat Scale Insects with horticultural oil now.

[] Grass seeds germinate S L O W L Y in early spring ~ have patience!

[] Spring Bulb Duds~ may be caused by too shallow planting/late freeze that destroys flower buds/too much water rotted bulbs/Tulips bloom for only 3 years.

[] Ornamental grasses need to be cut down to stimulate new growth.

[] Inspection of trees and shrubs for pruning and for potential fertilizing.

[] **Be Sure to Enjoy Your Re-awakening Landscape!**

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A hundred years ago horticultural care was in its infancy. Results were uneven and limited, pretty much having to accept whatever 'results' there were. Then, in the 1930's and 40's, researchers developed chemical fertilizers with higher amounts of primary nutrients than what manure or compost could provide, and everything grew more. Weed killers were developed to get rid of those nasty 'weeds.' The trouble was, those weeds were messengers of the soil's deficiencies to foster healthy plant growth. Moreover, the stronger fertilizers created other problems, so a whole array of fungicides and insecticides were employed which further created imbalances in the natural, immutable order of things.

When there were signs in the 70's that these products and procedures were not working as expected, IPM (Integrated Pest Management) was invented. But again, notice, it was only trying to control problems.

It is now being recognized that building health is the way to go. We have Plant Health Care procedures and materials to support this methodology. Also, many enlightened professionals recognized that plant health proceeds from soil health, and have added this dimension to their programs.

Our objective has always been to provide, shall we say, 'enlightened' care for your valuable landscape, and consider it a privilege to make recommendations to sustain your landscape in as healthy (and beautiful) a manner as possible at the least cost.

The challenge is that modern landscape plantings contain a majority of "foreign" plants not native to our environments. Thus, more diligence is required to overcome the deleterious effects from soil not 'built' with our plants' needs in mind. This results in insect and disease problems that need to be addressed as they appear.



CELEBRATING SPRINGTIME PLANT HEALTH CARE

The foundation of your lawn's health is its root system.

Providing a balanced fertilizer in early spring has several important functions. The least of which is only to gain a green color quickly that would naturally come, but later. The real importance is to help your lawn come out of dormancy, grow to heal damaged areas, and stimulate more food production. This also results in producing greater root expansion which has been made more possible because of the soil's loosening action of alternate freezing/thawing during the past winter.

The increased food production, more than what the grass plants need, can then be stored in greater quantities in that expanded root system. Moreover, that deeper root system can draw moisture, along with nutrients in the soil, into the plant during times of stress when moisture is lacking.



Evergreen shrubs; your landscape's foundation.

When all is dormant, your evergreens remind you of the coming season when they will display their innate beauty. And when they come out of dormancy and tap their reserves of energy, your plants decorate your landscape with colorful wonder.

Vulnerable plants, or those weakened because of insects or disease, may have succumbed to winter weather. Dead leaves or branches may have appeared that need trimming or pruning, and perhaps a booster shot of fertilizer to promote healing through new growth.

Your evergreens do not often have extensive root systems because of crowded conditions, and almost all are foreign to our environments, thus needing diligent attention to mitigate insect and disease activity.

All trees distinguish your landscape!

Whether you have magnificent, irreplaceable shade trees, weeping Japanese maples, or ornamental flowering trees like this cherry variety, your landscape is enhanced dramatically. And now in the spring your trees are showing off; displays anticipated when you peered at your barren-looking trees during the winter. Now they burst forth with color displays that will never be forgotten.

But, like all trees we plant in our landscapes, they absolutely need annual attention to keep them beautiful. They all produce too many branches which can become intertwined, weak, or dead. Therefore, pruning is always needed. The more ornamental they are, the more pruning is needed. They also benefit greatly from periodic fertilizing, and of course, will need some help during the season fighting off hungry insects, and even some diseases.



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