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August Tips



Remove weeds from planting beds before they go to seed.

Providing landscapes with beauty, health & balance

August Nature's News & Notes

Volume I

Issue 3

From the lawn to the trees it is time to take a look around to see how things are growing - or not. We hope you are enjoying Summer in the Hamptons!



What You Can Do for Your Trees & Shrubs

Recognize any early Fall color as an indicator of plant stress and low plant vigor, such as the tree to the left. Call with any concerns.

What a Professional Certified Arborist Should Do: Identify potentially hazardous trees & limbs prior to

the September start of hurricane season. The best way to determine whether your trees can handle high winds is to have them inspected by a certified arborist. In some cases, thinning some of your trees may be all that is needed or, it might be necessary to remove dead or dying wood.

Remember that lightning can cause serious damage too. If you're concerned about the possibility of lightning strikes, you may want to look into having lightning protection systems installed. Did you know that...Only a certified, professional arborist is qualified to write accurate insurance estimates as a result of tree damage. [More on tree care.](#)



Fall Landscape Review

Excessively hot, humid, cloudless days should be spent sipping lemonade in the shade instead of planting. By mid-August, cooler days will be starting again, and so starts the autumn

planting season. Some of the nicest yards and landscapes during the spring are where owners invested in August, September and October. Now is the time to prepare a landscape plan for fall planting of trees and shrubs, assessing areas in the garden that may need additional planting. On the next hot day, think about where you need more shade trees. Spring blooming hardy plants, such as peonies, prefer being planted in the fall. Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting. Late summer into fall is a great time to plant evergreen trees and shrubs. The new plants will have several months to grow new roots and will beautify your yard this

Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage continuous bloom.

Mow lawns regularly to keep grass at 3" height.

Plant late-season annuals like ornamental kale for fall color.

Add mulch to beds as needed. Mulch is important for moisture conservation .

Most lawns will need some seeding and repairs as we approach late summer. Plan now!! Call to get on our lawn seeding schedule, don't forget aeration and fertilizer.

Find a shady spot, good book, swimming pool, and some iced tea!



When should I plant trees & shrubs?

Many people consider only Spring for planting. Landscape plants installed in Spring benefit from generous rains and the

coming winter and all year around. [More on Landscaping.](#)



Plant of the Month-NY & New England Aster

Aster season is just beginning. These bright, starry flowers ("aster" comes from the Greek word for "star") positively shine in the Fall garden. There are literally hundreds of cultivars in many colors of this wonderful, native flowering plant. The flowers provide excellent color in the late summer and extend well into the Fall. They are excellent as cut flowers, deer resistant, and their multitudes of flowers in shades of blue, pink, red, yellow or white are renowned for attracting butterflies. These stars of the fall garden now come in tall, medium and dwarf forms; with single, double or semi-double flowers; in upright, rounded or mounding shapes.



Tree & Shrub Nutrition

Trees and shrubs are stressed by Summer too. Fall is the time to fertilize trees and shrubs. Deep root fertilization is a process where a high quality nutrient & bio-stimulant solution is injected into the root zone of trees. The materials are injected under pressure, which helps aerate and provide much needed oxygen to the root system. Soil injection sites are in a grid pattern under the canopy area and beyond the drip line. Normally, fertilization programs are done once or twice a year. Roots develop wherever oxygen, nutrients, and moisture are present. Ongoing deep root fertilization programs improve the oxygen content, microbial activity, and nutrient levels within the soil, leading to improved environmental conditions around and within the root zone. These fertilizations improve the overall health and vigor of trees. We use natural based products that both provide nutrients to plants and improve the soil. [More on fertilization.](#)



Harvesting the Rain?

Water demand is outpacing supply. A roof (5,000 sq. ft. home) generates around 110,000 gallons of water annually. Why let good water go to waste when you can reuse it for another purpose? Harvested rainwater can be harnessed for a water feature and/or for use by your sprinkler system.

The benefits of harvesting rainwater are numerous, but some of the more prominent advantages include:
Improved landscape growth.

- Reduces flooding, erosion, improves drainage on property.
- Reduces water bills.
- Rainwater is extremely rich in nutrients.

long growing season that stretches ahead, but the Fall months have distinct advantages. Fall planting follows the heat of summer, and precedes a cool winter season. Trees and shrubs planted use this to good advantage. Plant roots grow anytime the soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher. Fall planting (starting in mid-August) takes advantage of favorable soil temperatures and moisture conditions that promote the root growth needed to sustain plants through their critical first year in the landscape.

e-mail your questions to: [Ask The Expert](#)

- Using rainwater to irrigate will reduce fertilizer use.
- No chemicals have been added to rainwater.

The Aquascape RainXchange system can add the beauty of a water feature with a revolutionary system that captures and uses rainwater; it combines a re-circulating decorative water feature with an underground collection system, maintaining the integrity and beauty of your home and landscape. The system reveals only a beautiful water feature that integrates into the existing landscape, improves property value, provides soothing sights and sounds that help you relax, and de-stress in today's busy world. [More on rainwater harvesting.](#)



August Watering

Observe your sprinkler system. Look for heads that do not turn; heads that spray into the street or onto a sidewalk, bent or damaged heads, clogged nozzles, turf growth around heads that impede water delivery, puddling and runoff. As the sun becomes stronger in August, the evaporation level is higher, and you should adjust your controller to run zones longer to ensure your lawn and landscape is getting enough water during this month. [More on watering.](#)



Summer Lawn Recovery

Though the summer season can be a relaxing time of year for some, it can be very stressful for your lawn. Heat, lack of moisture, humidity, insects, and disease are all byproducts of the summer season that can take a serious toll on your turf. Almost every lawn can use a little fixing up or repairing, and the end of summer (or early fall) is just about the best time to do it. Lawn grasses are cool season plants and late summer and early fall are the best times to start a lawn from seed or install sod. The seed must come in contact with the soil either by tilling or vigorous raking prior to seeding, or by using a slit-seeder that cuts slits in the old sod and drops the seed at just the right depth. If your lawn is in bad shape due to drought stress, insects, weeds or other reasons and you are considering a total renovation, August is the time to get started. Consult one of our lawn specialists if you are considering a total lawn renovation. We can either teach you the steps for renovating the lawn or our crews can do the work for you. We offer services from sod installation, hydroseeding and slit seeding. Performing a core aeration, topdressing the lawn with compost are all services that can be performed in the Fall and maximize the Spring health and appearance of your lawn. A well manicured lawn adds beauty and value to a home. A house can be ever so beautiful, but if the lawn is in bad condition the overall appearance is affected. Maintaining a lush, green lawn takes work, but the results are well worth the money and effort.



Poa annua, also called annual bluegrass, can be treated for control in Fall. This is the grass we commonly see in May and June with all those unsightly seed heads and is of a distinctly light green color. For best control two applications of a product that targets this weed can be applied in the fall and also is required once in the spring for maximum control. These areas will be seeded with desirable grass species. Over several years a 70% reduction can be expected. This makes your lawn more attractive, with less seed heads & light colored blades, with more disease resistance and heat tolerance. In cases of severe infestation the best control would be a complete renovation of the lawn. [More on lawn care.](#)



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