



Providing a beautiful, healthy & balanced landscape

In This Issue

[Web Site Launches](#)

[Ask the Expert](#)

[Best of the Best](#)

[Summer Watering Alert](#)

[Summer Comfort](#)

[Environment-Friendly](#)

[Plant of the Month](#)

[Easy Summer Living](#)

[Clear Waters](#)

[Caring for Flowering Shrubs](#)

[Greedy Grubs](#)

Quick Links

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Meet Our Team](#)

[Contact Us](#)

New Web Site Launches



Take a moment to

Nature's News & Notes

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Welcome to our July Newsletter. We hope you are enjoying Summer in the Hamptons!

Summer Watering Alert!



Giving your lawn the right amount of water can be one of the trickiest aspects of summer lawn maintenance. It is the environmental factor that determines whether a lawn is green and growing or brown and dormant. **Summer Heat is upon us and your irrigation system must be set properly.**

It is time to have a system checkup. Contact us to have one of our irrigation technicians run your system. They will be looking for faulty, misaligned heads; areas either over or under watered; make all necessary repair & adjustments, and check your irrigation clock for proper operation and set it for Summer conditions.



Summer Comfort

[Pruning trees](#) in Summer has many benefits for your landscape and the tree. Pruning softens man-made structures and enhances the landscape setting. It allows sunlight and air movement throughout the tree which is important to reduce the occurrence of diseases and insects. It is ideal when your lawn, ground covers or shrubs underneath the tree need to receive more sunlight or airflow. The height, spread or vertical clearance over structures including buildings, pools and vehicular or pedestrian pathways can be created through the selective removal of branches. Although we always take natural characteristics into account, trees may be pruned in various ways to achieve a special effect or look to your landscape. For instance, selective pruning can reveal a view of the ocean, bay, lake, or a garden & can be performed all while the beauty of the trees are retained.

visit our brand new [Web Site](#). It is full of information that we hope you find useful. We greatly welcome your comments and suggestions.



Q. My shrubs have a Sooty Mold on them. What is it?

A. Sooty mold is only a by-product of sucking-piercing insects like scale, aphid and mealybug. It is their secretions of honeydew that provide the environment for the fungus sooty mold to grow. Get rid of the insects and you'll eventually get rid of the sooty mold. Even once the insects are under control, sooty mold can take several years to weather off from the old leaves.

Environment-Friendly



Ray Smith & Associates is a leader in implementing [Integrated Pest Management](#) (IPM) Programs and Green Programs for both commercial and residential customers in the Hamptons. IPM pinpoints the source of the problem and determines the low risk, effective tactics that fit the particular needs of our client and their environment. Control strategies often include physical exclusion of the pest, removal of harborage sites, habitat modification, and monitoring.

You can have faith and confidence in our technicians. By law they are licensed by the NYS DEC, but we go beyond the legal requirements. Our ongoing in-house training program yields professionals with the highest level of service and knowledge. When a treatment is required our technicians choose the safest, most effective material and apply only to the targeted plants and pests.



Plant of the Month

Hostas are easy to grow, shade tolerant, herbaceous perennials and can be [planted](#) at any time during the growing season. They are grown mainly for their beautiful foliage, but many varieties have lovely flowers as well. Their leaves come in a wide range of shapes, colors, sizes, and textures. After they are planted, your hostas will require very little care, except keeping the deer away. Because hostas are usually grown under trees that compete for moisture make sure that your plants get enough water during the growing season.

Easy Summer Living



Back yards are being transformed into luxurious extensions of the house. They are the new favorite room to relax, entertain, and cook. The heart and soul of the backyard resort area is the patio. When properly constructed these outdoor living spaces can provide decades of enjoyment.

It's important to [design](#) a patio with adequate space for planned group activities and patio furniture placement. [Patios](#) can range from simple to complex, a small sitting area to a large party one; and some can be completed in a matter of days. It is a great time to consider adding or upgrading a patio or sitting area. We are proud of the reputation that we have earned for our reliable and professional craftsmanship. Our designers and installers work



[E-mail](#) us with your questions.

Dan's Papers
"Best of the Best "
Tree Service
2006, 2007, 2008



with you through the entire process.

Clear Waters



Are you seeing color change from the clear green water of your [backyard pond](#) to a bright, pea-soup green? Are you wondering what's going on?

Algae is a necessary part of a healthy, balanced pond; but, you can have too much of a good thing. Algae reduces nitrates and phosphates, and creates "structure" in the pond. Algae requires sunlight and nutrition to grow. The nutrition comes from bi-products; fish waste, decaying leaves and decomposed fish food (make sure you don't over feed your fish). The way to reduce the excess of algae in your pond is by reducing the amount of sunlight and nutrients available to the algae (and of course, having a proper size pump and filter). Sunlight can be reduced by providing shade to your pond by adding aquatic plants such as water lilies or floating plants to your pond. The leaves of these plants help to cover the surface area of your pond and also make the pond look great. Get rid of any dead and decaying leaves on the bottom or along the sides of the pond. Algaecides can be used as a last resort if necessary as a properly cared for and designed pond will only need one on occasion.

Caring for Flowering Shrubs



For plants such as Azalea & Rhododendron their Spring show is over and their bloom is fading fast. [Pruning](#) soon after the blooms have completely fallen off is a great way to ensure a good looking plant for the rest of the Summer, and good blooms for the next Spring. These kinds of plants flower on the previous seasons growth and should be pruned after flowering to allow new wood to grow and that wood have time to produce flower buds for the following year, so your timing is crucial. Pruning on these shrubs should be completed as soon as possible to ensure a beautiful return bloom next Spring.

Greedy Grubs

White grubs are the immature stage of Japanese beetles, Oriental beetles, European chafers, Asiatic garden beetles and other beetles. The beetle lays its eggs in the lawn and by August the young larvae are in the soil feeding on turfgrass roots.

Turfgrass areas heavily infested with grubs can be rolled up like a carpet and be completely killed. The most successful way to stop these pests is to prevent them. The key is to keep your lawn healthy with proper care; correct mowing practices, balanced fertility and good irrigation practices. A healthy lawn can actually tolerate a higher level of beetle grubs without showing signs of damage. There are treatment options, the most effective insecticide product available however, can only be applied by Licensed Applicators. Products available to homeowners are less effective. We are often asked about Milky Spore disease. It's only effective on Japanese beetle grubs and does not affect the predominant grub species on L.I. It also takes years to build in the soil for any measure of control; and needs high populations of grubs annually to multiply in. The majority of research has unfortunately found it to be of questionable value at best. Beneficial nematodes are showing promise but are very expensive, difficult to apply, and inconsistent.

"Beautifying the Hamptons for 35 Years"

Call us for a Free Consultation.

631-287-6100