



Hello To All!

### **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!**

Update:

Randy Lutz, a client and a member of the national guard who has been stationed in Kosovo this past year will be home soon. Welcome home!

This spring, we planned a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower show. If you are interested in joining us for the 2007 Phila. Flower Show, let me know and I will put you on the mailing list. Information for the 2007 Phila. Flower Show bus trip will be sent out in the beginning of January.

Need a gift for that gardener in the family. Consider a gift certificate for a landscape design or a consultation to help restore and out-of-control garden.

Only about 15 weeks to spring! If you are in need of help with the yard,

**Landscape designs and consultations are available by appointment.**

### **An E-Z Design Co.**

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Helpful Garden Hints

#### **Getting to the ROOT of things!**

Many time plants seem to die for no reason. If examined carefully one will find dead or decayed roots on that plant. A plant that dies from lack of water can look identical to a plant that has dies from over-watering. In both cases, the roots have died. A dry plant will have dry brittle brown roots and a plant that died from over watering will have rotten smelling brown roots. Many times if the plant is not watered properly, the roots will be more susceptible to soil diseases as well as soil insects.

Ways to prevent plant death:

1. Pick the right plant for the right spot. It may not be the plant you want for that spot.

Example: the Azalea does not like full sun, dry soil or wet soil. Many times they are planted in exactly one of those conditions.

2. Know your soil type. Knowing the soil type will help you pick the right plant for your soil type(s). The County Extension Service offers soil-testing kits for nominal fees.

Helpful Garden Hints

3. Be sure to water the plants properly. This is easier than said. A watering guide can be found on the website below. It is better to water for a longer period of time to encourage root growth and only once or twice a week. Roots will grow towards water. If you water often and shallow they get lazy and stay at the surface where the soil dries out quickly. Thus setting them up for death through the drought periods. You will also use less water over all. Consider an irrigation system to make the watering task easier. Pictures of a possible system can be found on the web site below.

#### **Busy Lizzie's Mailbox**

Many people have heard of using Skin-So-Soft from Avon as a bug repellent. Dottie L. has been using it to help prevent a bad reaction to poison ivy. She puts it on her arms legs and hands before walking in the woods. It seemed to minimize another wise severe reaction. The skin protective agent seems to prevent the pores from absorbing the oil from the poison ivy. I have tried it. So far it has worked.

Thanks Dottie!

**Busy Lizzie -  
nickname for**

imagination

