



Hello to All!

"Fall is For Planting"

Thinking about adding a new garden or redesigning an old garden. Now is the time to make plans. Planting can be done until the ground freezes solid. Plants this time of the year tend to grow more roots to support more plant growth for next year. It is a good time to take advantage of nature hard at work.

Landscape designs and consultations are available by appointments. Call to schedule 1-717-432-8496

Our design service offers a plan with a pictorial concept of what the garden or landscape can look like. Care information is provided with every plan. We feel that you go to the trouble of having a design completed, you should have information on how to maintain your garden or landscape successfully.

Busy Lizzie's Mailbox

Sonia's question: My roses look tired. I fertilize them monthly and they still look tired.

Marge's suggestion: Use 1/2 cup of Epsom salt per 2 gal of water and pour around the base of the rose or 1 cup dry Epsom salt sprinkled around the base of the rose and water thoroughly.

Epsom salts contains Magnesium which plants need in small amounts. Usually it is found in the soil naturally but sometimes it is not available to the plant because of the pH content of the soils too high.

Helpful Garden Hints

Soil pH - how to know what your soil pH is.

If you haven't had a soil test done recently, now would be a good time. The Penn State Cooperative Extension service in your county has test kits that you can purchase for \$6.00. The kits have directions to help you take the sample. Send it up to Penn State soils lab. They analyze the sample(s) and send a report back to you. It lets you know what your soil pH is and how to adjust it for the needs of your plants. The soil pH directly affects the use of plant nutrients by the plant. It can cause deficiencies if it is not the correct range for the plants that you are growing. Information on what fertilizer(s) you might need to add to your plants is also provided. Sometimes a simple test can solve many problems. If plants don't "eat right", they become unhealthy just as we do if we don't eat right.

Are your white pines and other evergreens looking a little yellow right now?

This is the time of year that evergreens shed their old needles to make room for next year's growth. The inner needles will turn yellow and fall off. Some years they may shed more than other years. they go in cycles. If the tips of the evergreens are yellow, then you may have a problem and should request professional help.

Don't forget to use Wilt-pruf on your evergreens to protect them from winter winds, especially newly planted evergreens (<1-3years).

Helpful Garden Hints

Did you have a severe problem with black spot on your roses this year?

If you have been treating all summer with fungicide and have not successfully gotten the black spot under control, you will want to use the lime/sulfur spray during the dormant season. It is recommended when other fungicides have not worked. Be sure to remove all dead leaves on the ground and on the rose before spraying. You want to eliminate as much of the fungal source as possible. Do not use dormant oils sprays with lime/sulfur sprays. The combination can be toxic to the plants. Be sure to follow the directions on any pest control substance exactly as directed. **More is never good!**

Mulching guide lines

Never mulch any thicker than 2"-3" deep around plants. Do not mulch over branches or so it touches the stem or trunk of plants. These practices can lead to severe problems. Hardwood mulch has a tendency to pack down if too thick and can prevent water from soaking down through the soil. Many trees will send up sucker shoots or become weak rooted. **More is not better.**

Happy Gardening

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