



Hello To All!

As Spring is late in coming so is my newsletter to greet you a warm spring hello. E-Z Design Co. has been making some changes this winter. A new web site and a new web address have been created. If you have access to the internet, check out www.ezdesignco.com, the new web site. It features landscape design examples. You may find your garden in the examples. The email address stays the same. In the future, this newsletter will become part of the web site. I am hoping to add a section for monthly helpful hints to the web site sometime this year. You can find the information in **Busy Lizzie's Mailbox**. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to those who wish to have it mailed through the US Post Office. Those of you have email or access to the internet will be able to get the newsletter via computer. If you have any helpful hints that you would like to share, continue to let us know. We no longer have "Gifts from and for the Garden" on the internet. The catalog has been streamlined to carry only a few items this year. If you are interested in having an order form, please contact us. **Landscape designs and consultations are available by appointment.**

Helpful Garden Hints

Reminder: Roses should be pruned by now. Be sure to clean up all debris around the base of the plants to help remove disease spores the might infect the roses. Clematis that bloom in June or later should be pruned to the about 10"-12" at a bud above the ground. Perennials and ornamental grasses should be cut back to about 12" above ground. Any summer or fall blooming perennials and grasses should be divided at this time to ensure good growth and nice blooms for later. Mulching should be done after the ground has had a chance to warm up and perennials have had a chance to start pushing. I usually mulch after the annuals have been planted and the spring bulbs have been cut back. Apply your pre-emergent weed control at that time. I don't like to mulch before the perennials have shown some growth because the crowns may get covered and damage the perennials. Mulch should never be applied over the crown of perennials or low growing branches of the shrubs. Remember to only have 2"-3" of mulch covering your beds. If you have too much mulch, just loosen it and turn it over, you will get a dark color from the underneath layer.

Helpful Hints

Many shrubs have been damaged by the cold winds that we had in March. Many of the plants will recover once we have warm weather and new growth can push out. Hollies seem to be hard hit this year. Remove the dead leaves and watch for buds to push out. If new growth does not develop by end of May then cut off branches to the nearest bud that is pushing new growth. Some plants like Heavenly bamboo (nandina) loose their leaves when we have cold spells. They will leaf out but usually not until we get warm weather -end of May - beginning of June.

Busy Lizzie's Mailbox

Planting Tips: when planting container grown plants, plant only as deep as the root ball is. Be sure to loosen up roots so they spread out and take up water. When planting plants that have a burlap wrap around the root ball, cut off about 1/3 of the burlap so that the burlap is below surface level, so that the burlap doesn't act like a wick and dry out the root ball. Plant only as deep as the root ball is. Be sure to firmly pack down the soil around the root ball to remove all air pockets that could prevent the proper amount of water to be available to the plant

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