

The June HORT REPORT

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Vigorous, unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened on new trees. Watch for forks on the main trunk and remove the least desirable leader as soon as it is noticed.
- Remain alert for insect damage. Add spider mites to the list. Foliage of most plants becomes pale and speckled; juniper foliage turns a pale yellowish color. Shake a branch over white paper and watch for tiny specs that crawl. Watch for first generation web worms.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed again in mid-June.
- Cultivate and MULCH. Mulching will reduce about 70% of your summer yard maintenance.
- Fertilize warm season grasses 3-5 times per season using one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in each application. Apply one pound in April, May, June, August, and September for a high-quality lawn. Water in nitrate fertilizers.
- It isn't too late to treat dollar spot disease. Make sure fertilizer applications have been adequate before applying a fungicide.
- Seeding of warm season grasses should be complete by the end of June to reduce winter kill losses.
- Brown patch disease of cool season grasses can be a problem. Meet water requirements of turf. Continue to water deeply as needed. Apply at least one inch of water each time.
- Post-emergent control of crabgrass and summer annual grasses is best performed on young plants during June.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root if propagated in a moist shady spot.

IT'S SUMMER PEOPLE! GET OUTSIDE!

Longer daylight hours mean more opportunities to spend time outdoors – and improve your health. After months of staying inside to be safe, it is now time to get outside. Studies have shown that nature walks can help promote better focus and sharper memory. Spending time outdoors has also been linked to lowering inflammation and eliminating fatigue. Need one more reason? Outdoor activity or “green exercise” can help fight anxiety and depression.

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO

So, you want a great garden? In a nutshell, there are THREE things you can do that will make or break your garden, lawn, container baskets, trees, shrubs, and just about anything else you can dream of to grow.

The three things you need to know and do:

- 1.) Feed them.
- 2.) Water them.
- 3.) Get the soil right.

#1: FEED them... it isn't hard to do!

You want superior growth, and my recommendation will always be OSMOCOTE... EVERY TIME! With one application, it will feed your plants for 4 months! It is a slow-release fertilizer that feeds every time water is applied. Its so easy ...just sprinkle on the ground around the base of the plants and water!

Annuals, Perennials, and Vegetables: I feed everything in May, September, and February. It works people! APPLY IT NOW! It's not too late.

Trees and Shrubs: I recommend 2 feedings per year. Early Spring and early Fall. Fertilome and Ortho also provide a granular that is easy to apply.

Lawns: Follow directions in LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE... feeding 3-5 times per season.

#2: WATER them... it's a choice!

Water is the engine of plant growth. Period. Without water, nothing else happens. So if you want to see great gardens, you have to water. It's a choice ...WATER THEM OR WATCH THEM STRUGGLE! Plants will often survive on natural water alone, but seldomly with they THRIVE in a garden setting.

If you want them to THRIVE, this is what you do:

- You need to provide 1 inch of water per week on average soils for flower and vegetable gardens.
- If in the shade of trees, you need to increase that to 2 - 2 ½ inches of water per week. (Some for the trees and some for the plants.)
- Water where the plants need it... at the base of the plant, closest to its root system. Overhead sprinklers waste 50% of the water you apply to evaporation. A drip irrigation hose will soak a path approximately 3 feet wide.
- For lawns, drip irrigation is impractical. Overhead sprinklers spread water faster and you can mow around them. Do not install automatic timers. There's nothing funnier than a sprinkler system running during a pouring rainstorm.
- To measure the amount of water your sprinklers are putting out, put a wide mouth container lid or quart sized container in the path of the sprinkler. Keep track of the time it takes to put an inch of water into the container. Once you know this time, you can adjust the time on your system for 1 ½ - 2 inches, or whatever you need.

#3: Get the soil right!

There are several things you can do to get your soil right. Some are harder and take some patience... depending on how bad your soil is to start. Others are easier and take less time to get great results.

Let's talk HUMALFA! Nature's Prescription.

I call it the "MAGIC" that is in my garden. It goes in the bottom of every hole before I plant. I repeat... EVERY HOLE! It is an organic, alfalfa based, rooting stimulant and soil amendment that will boost your root system by 10 times! It makes poor soil GREAT SOIL! More roots mean more flowers and veggies! You can never go wrong with HUMALFA! You can use it to help jump start grass seed in an area that you've had problems with, or you can incorporate it into container soil to boost productivity of older soils or add into the garden area at planting time. It really takes away the "stress" of planting starter plants and allows them a great feeding to the root system at planting. Your plants will love you for it! It is the key ingredient to help establish trees and shrubs into their new environment.

Please understand that getting the soil right usually starts in early February or March before plantings occur. The proper use of the right fertilizer, at the right time, is an essential key to becoming successful in your landscape. To know the make-up of your soil you need to perform a soil test about every three years. OSU provides this service for a small fee. It will give you all the information on your soil and a recommendation on what you need to add, how much, and why! It will also give you your soil's PH, which is important for your plant's health and production.

So what do we do NOW to get it right?... MULCH, MULCH, MULCH!

Mulch does many wonderful things for your garden, such as: reducing moisture loss, preventing weeds from germinating, decomposing to feed your plants, stopping disease from spreading to lower leaves, giving beneficial insects a place to hide during the day, and a good solid layer will keep the winter's ice and snow above the root beds of the plants, helping to insulate them from the cold temperatures we are accustomed to getting.