

## Personal Message

Traditionally, August is the slowest summer month of the year for landscapers. It's too hot to plant anything. Grass doesn't need to be cut as often. Even weeds aren't growing as fast as normal in the heat this month.

Our slow period may work to your advantage. We're offering a 10% discount on landscape design plans this month.

If you need help with the landscaping around your home, now is your opportunity to save some money. Our designer can help you find attractive, low maintenance landscaping solutions that will last for years to come.

I've mentioned our in-house designer, Dave Lee, often in this column. He is a graduate of Georgetown University's Landscape Design program. He is also one of the few designers in this area who will actually be on your job as the installation is completed.

As we've worked together over the years, Dave and I agreed that it is important for the designer to manage an installation. Who is better qualified to read the plan and place the plant material?

The entire operation runs more smoothly when your designer is part of the installation team. Client satisfaction is our number one goal and this is the ultimate way to make that happen.

If you've been thinking about making your property more appealing, call and schedule an appointment with Dave. The initial consultation is free. You'll find that our prices are the most reasonable on the Eastern Shore, especially with our 10% discount this month. And, the installation doesn't have to be completed during August, just scheduled and on the books.

Visit our website at [dellsadler.com](http://dellsadler.com) to see some of Dave's designs over the years.

Later this month, you'll start to see information about natural/organic lawn care. We'll be mailing some literature to you about our program over the next several months.

Fall is actually the best time for lawn renovations. Cooler weather allows grass seed to germinate in an optimum manner. There is usually more rain. And, the incidence of weed growth is less.

Environmental conditions are more favorable in the fall than the spring. If your lawn is mostly weeds or bare soil, you may need to consider starting over. Heavily compacted soil is also a huge problem for lawns in this area. Watch this column for more information.

## August Garden Tips

- How about starting a second crop of vegetables for fall harvesting? We're planting lettuce and peas again this month. Try to keep them shaded during the afternoon sunlight. We always enjoy a repeat of our spring vegetables during the fall. In fact, we purchase extra seeds in the spring so that we're sure to have enough for fall plantings. Be sure to water more often this month if there's not enough rain.
- Unless it starts to rain again like it did this spring, watering is the single most important thing you can do for your lawn and garden this month. Avoid short shallow bursts of watering. Deep, prolonged drinks of water are much more beneficial for your lawn and landscape beds.
- Now is the time to divide bearded irises. You can easily replant them and have free plant material. Just be careful where you place them. Bearded irises are prolific and tend to grow to overflow the space where you've transplanted them. Their blooms are glorious in the spring.

## Prevention Tips for Tick Bites

There's plenty of summer left and that means ticks are still extremely active. Warm weather acts as an aphrodisiac for ticks. They will remain active through the summer and into the warm weather months of fall.

Even though the nymphal (young ticks) are most active during the beginning of the summer, mature ticks also carry Lyme disease. Fortunately, they are easier to spot than the young ticks, but the threat of disease is still very real.

As you'll remember, my company is extremely proactive about ticks and our barrier tick repellent program. The incidence of tick related illnesses is very high in my family. My Dad still suffers with complications of Lyme disease, which he contracted over a year ago.

However, even if you decide not to use a tick repellent spray, please take precautions, especially if you're going into a heavily wooded area.

- Spray exposed skin with an insect repellent.
- Wear appropriate clothing . . . long sleeves and pants are best. And even though it may look dorky, tuck the cuffs of your pants into your socks. This could prevent ticks from coming in contact with your skin.
- Light colored clothing is best. You'll spot ticks easier.
- Here's the most important one! Check yourself for ticks when you come inside. Examine your clothing and skin thoroughly. Pay particular attention to your hair and ears, under your arms, around the waist and between your legs.
- If you do find a tick, remove it promptly and be sure to use tweezers. If part of the tick breaks off under the skin, call your doctor for proper removal. If possible, take the remainder of the tick in a jar to the doctor's office. Your doctor may want to examine it more thoroughly.
- Please let us know if we can help. Call for a free analysis of your property. We can prevent tick incidence for you, your home and your pets.

## Landscapes That Help the Chesapeake Bay

It's been some time since we visited our friends at the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension website. You must check out their new additions to their website. It's a fantastic site!

These are the Master Gardeners who will answer your gardening questions Monday through Friday at **1.800.342.2507**. Experts can answer both plant and pest questions for you. Contact them at: [hgic.umd.edu](http://hgic.umd.edu).

As we poked around the site, I was glad to see that nasturtiums were listed as a plant pick of the month for July. I was introduced to these plants last year and was pleasantly surprised to see volunteers in my garden again this spring.

The website has a new section entitled, "Frequently Asked Questions." Their Q&A discussion about tomato blight yielded some serious information about tomato and potato fungi. The new blight is wrecking havoc on crops.

It was fun and somewhat scary to watch their snake and turtle videos. A video is about as close as I care to get to a snake. However, they were very informative and I have to admit that I was fascinated by what I saw.

Finally, I added my food garden to their map. The Master Gardeners are counting food gardens in the state, so please be sure to register yours. It's a fun and worthwhile project.