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Monthly Newsletter

November, 2013

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November **Garden Tips**

* Don't store apples or pears with vegetables. These fruits give off ethylene gas which speeds up the breakdown of vegetables and will cause them to develop "off" flavors. Did you know this? We've put apples with other fruits and vegetables forever. Never realized I was hurrying Mother Nature along.

* Fall can be a great time to cut back your perennials if you've got the time and energy to get it done. Make sure to leave 2-3 inches of the plant's stem to help protect fresh shoots from animal damage as they first emerge in the spring. It's also a helpful reminder of where plants are located in the yard before they start to sprout.

* Don't forget to drain and store your water hoses before freezing temperatures occur.

Why can't I ever remember to do this??????

My company tends to use our hoses for an outdoor water source longer than most people. I'm a living testament to the fact that hoses really do need to be put away for the winter. We spend a fortune on hoses every year, when they start to leak each spring.

Note to self: Dell, drain and store your water hoses this year.

* You can get a lot of plants for free, right now, out of your own garden. You can still divide peonies and transplant them for lots of lush foliage next year. Do you have any other perennials that might qualify for dividing or transplanting? Black Eyed Susan's or Autumn Sedum are good candidates for plants that will grow quickly next year.

A Personal Message

It certainly has been a beautiful autumn. Mostly sunny days and cool nights. Why doesn't everyone live on the Eastern Shore of Maryland? We've experienced an extremely busy fall. I'm the owner of a small business, that only operates in the local area. I'm happy to report that we are working consistently; even adding one new position to my company recently.



Here's one of my favorite photos from this fall. We completed a clean-up and mulching job for a beautiful waterfront property in Talbot County. Several new plants were added to this landscape bed too. We'll return in the winter to cut back the lioripi and ornamental grasses.

In other news, I'm excited about Thanksgiving.

Melissa and I are planning a big family dinner with a Texas theme this year. I'm doing the cooking (as usual,) so I get to plan the menu.

I'll be serving a huge beef brisket with my famous Mac & Cheese. Deviled eggs. Collard greens and cornbread. Lots of other side dishes, with plenty of desserts to last the entire weekend.

Family and friends are coming from up and down the East Coast. Stop by for a piece of pie and some of my homemade ice-cream. My 8 year old niece, Scarlett Rose, has promised to be especially helpful making the ice-cream! Here's hoping you'll enjoy the start of our Holiday season. If we can help with the outdoor chores, please don't

hesitate to let me know.

I'll leave you with another favorite photograph of our work this fall. This gorgeous entrance bed was overgrown and filled with roadside debris. We weeded, trimmed and applied a thin layer of mulch to protect the plants during the winter months.



The Process of Woods Restoration

When the weather gets colder, we usually begin our woods restoration projects. Cold weather is the perfect time for this type of work. The foliage is off the trees, so we're able to work quickly and efficiently. Let's start with a discussion of woods restoration work. This is the process of taking an overgrown woods, choked with vegetation and littered with fallen, dead trees and turning it into a park-like setting. If you own an area that fits this description, you may be under-using your property. Wooded areas are wonderful spots for hiking trails or bike paths.

Kids are inclined to play in the woods and that can lead to problems, if there's lots of underbrush. They can fall and trip on rotten logs. And, boy do children ever get poison ivy!

Also, an overgrown woods can harbor an active tick population. In this state, ticks are a constant source of concern. They thrive in wooded areas, particularly areas where deer may congregate.

Ticks can be found in rodent nests, particularly squirrel and mice nests. An overgrown woods is the perfect place for nesting spots, usually resulting in a large population of ticks. Our tick repellent service can help. We can help get rid of a great deal of brush in a short period of time. Our tractors have an attachment that's shaped like a giant claw. It can reach in and grab an enormous pile of brush.

Other steps that you may want to consider are pulling vines away from trees. This procedure really helps to clear up the dense look of a woods. It also helps the health of trees. Vines can eventually choke a tree to death. Vines need to be removed carefully. You don't want the bark of a tree scarred because it looks ugly. A tree trunk that isn't protected with bark invites disease and insects. The health of the entire tree can be at stake if vines are pulled incorrectly.

There are lots of good reasons for clearing underbrush and cleaning up a heavily wooded area. Woods restoration is quite a process, but the end result is worth it. A well-maintained woods adds value to a beautiful Eastern Shore property.

Organic Deer Repellent That Really Works!

Commercial deer repellent programs have become increasingly popular, although some of them are more effective than others. They all tend to work best when combined with other strategies.

The University of Maryland suggests a combination of population management, fencing, vegetation management, scare tactics and repellents to minimize deer damage.

Our proprietary formula actually uses the pleasant aroma of peppermint to keep the herd at bay. Repellent is sprayed directly on the plants to be protected. Some damage may occur while the deer are still approaching the plant material that has been sprayed. It usually takes several attempts before they move on to other feeding grounds.

After about three months, they eventually recognize the bad taste. That's when the cost of our program actually decreases. We're able to spray less product on the plant material and we pass the cost savings on to you.

To recap, our program is natural and organic and has a peppermint oil base that humans prefer over the horrible odor of garlic and egg based sprays. However, deer hate the treated plants and begin to avoid them.

Best of all, the price drops after three months of service. Give us a try if you're having problems with deer damage.

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