



NEWSLETTER

Gardeners - Optimists All!!

What a challenge the weather has provided us in the landscape this year!! Starting in April with the unprecedented Easter freeze and continuing through August with record high temperatures for weeks in a row and no rain for over thirty days. Hopefully, this winter will not follow up with unparalleled cold temperatures.

It has definitely been a challenging year for trying to grow anything, but gardeners are not made up of the faint of heart or weak of spirit. We have continued to serve you hardy customers at the greenhouse throughout the 100+ temperatures, and the guys on the landscaping crew have persevered by starting earlier in the day and finishing before the hottest part of the day.

As the weather cools off and we receive some much needed rain, those of us who grew weary of toiling through the heat and humidity are reminded of why we love to garden—the joy or feeling the moist soil give way under our spade,

the anticipation of watching new life spring up from the ground, the balm to the soul of experiencing the beauty in part created by our labor.

And so we turn the page from what has happened in the past and continue on toward the future in eager expectation of simple pleasures in the landscape. We go ahead and plant those bulbs, relocate

that plant to another section of the garden, plant a new perennial, add a bench here or a bird-bath there, anticipating that the best is yet to be and leaving behind the frustrations of yesterday. Yes, we gardeners are an optimistic bunch and that is what keeps us going when the going gets tough and the weather won't cooperate!!

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting—a wayside sacrament.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Special points of interest:

- *Chart of Herbicides for Ornamental Beds
- *Time to dry-down irrigation systems for winter

TUNE-UP LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

By: Thomas J. Koske LSU AgCenter
(Article reproduced in it's entirety)

Today's high tech irrigation systems demand even more attention to receive all their enhanced benefits. Systems must be programmed to fit the location's needs and those of the current season. Adequate soil moisture is essential for a thriving landscape. It can mean the loss of newly planted grass or increased diseases.

Irrigation should be set to run in the early hours. Morning water pressure is usually better; foliage will have time to dry before the evening dew or afternoon showers set in. This dry evening segment will reduce the infectious period of diseases and help reduce that problem.

Check head output and uniformity with water collectors like tuna fish cans. Place several collectors around, and check coverage and inches per hour output.

One approach to irrigation management is to set the timer for what you guess the zone may need; then watch the results. If your needs are just to protect from general plant loss, an on-call approach or weekly irrigation can do.

For best water management, these irrigation factors should be incorporated into your program. They are soil type, current drought conditions, sunlight, plants, slope, and wind.

Soil types have a lot to do with irrigation cycles. Clayey soils require several short, back-to-back cycles because those soils need more water at any one time, but can only infiltrate slowly. When well watered, clay lawns have the capacity to supply moisture longer. Sandy lawns take in water easily, but have a lower capacity to hold much water. They need more frequent and shorter cycle applications. Head output should complement the soil's infiltration rate and be a factor in the original design, but you can still best manage whatever equipment you have.

The plant materials in the landscape also regulate irrigation. Some materials have deep roots and drought resistance. These materials need not be

watered as often as shallow-rooted species and succulents. It would be best to plant similar materials together and allow for more appropriate irrigation in zones instead of all zones getting the same dose.

When in droughty periods during the hot season, water more frequently. Instead of once or twice a week, you may need a third watering. Poorly designed systems will suffer more in drought and will definitely need more irrigation time to make up for their lack of effectiveness.

If you have slopes, it is important to zone the highest areas different from those lower. High spots will need more frequent watering and low spots or down slope will collect water from up-slope and need less irrigation to avoid disease and root loss. You may adjust run times or the frequency and timing of their cycles to get the appropriate dose for the site.

Shady areas usually do not need as much water, but that depends on the type of plant materials. Contractors should consider this in their designs. You should base these zone needs on the site conditions and plant material needs.

Wind changes everything. It changes the spray patterns and thus the uniformity of coverage. It also accelerates the evapotranspiration, which causes the soil to dry out more and plants to lose more water. Many areas have the reverse of this problem and have dead air space because of walls and larger shrubs, etc. . . Consider this aspect of the site when allowing for irrigation programming.

Full automation is far from foolproof. Irrigation needs and cycles should be re-evaluated monthly to locate problems and adjust for changing needs. A properly designed and operated irrigation system will ensure that the critical factor of soil moisture will be there to sustain healthy plant growth.

GREENHOUSE HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 9-3

Sat./Sun. 9-12

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY:

CLOSED FOR WINTER

RE-OPEN SPRING OF 2008

We are still landscaping full time and, throughout the winter, weather permitting, will be installing lots of structure, retaining walls, drainage, patios, and walkways.

Please call us any time so we can schedule your landscape needs.

If you need plants during the months that we are closed, please don't hesitate to contact us and we can arrange to meet you.

BULB DO'S AND DON'TS

We thought these bulb do's and don'ts might be helpful to you now that fall bulb planting time is here:

ALWAYS plant bulbs in borders or beds with good drainage. Planting bulbs in well-drained soil is vital and the most important instruction we can give you.

DO NOT use any strong commercial fertilizer or fresh manure when planting bulbs.

ALWAYS cut as little foliage as possible when cutting flowers from your bulbous plants. The leaves and foliage are essential for storing food for next year's blooming.

DO NOT let the flower go to seed. Cut flowers as they fade and remove any seed pods that form. Leave the foliage to keep the bulb strong.

ALWAYS let the foliage die back on its own in the garden before trimming it back or digging up the bulbs. Do not trim back healthy green foliage

or the bulb will not perform well next year.

NEVER dry bulbs in the sun, always in the shade in a well ventilated area.

ALWAYS store bulbs in a dry, well ventilated area to prevent mold or mildew. Do not store them in an air tight container.

DO NOT grow tulip bulbs year after year in the same place. Sooner or later they may be attacked with a fungus disease called fire blight, which affects both foliage and flowers. Either change the soil or the location; in other words, follow the principle of crop rotation.

ALWAYS label the bulbs as you plant them. Use labels that are big enough so that 2-3" of the label is below soil level. Smaller bulbs can get heaved out of the soil during winter freezing and thawing. Labeling prevents you from accidentally digging up bulbs out of season. Do not rely on your memory alone. Labeling is much safer.

HERBICIDES AVAILABLE FOR WEED CONTROL IN ORNAMENTAL BEDS

Submitted to *Southern Landscape and Nursery*, August, 2007, by Mark Czarnota, Ph.D., Ornamental Weed Control Specialist Department of Horticulture, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223

(Article reproduced in its entirety)

If you have been unsuccessful at removing weeds by hand, or preventing their growth by using physical barriers such as mulches and landscape fabrics, your last line of defense is chemical weed control. If you are not opposed to using synthetically produced herbicides to control unwanted plants, you will find a large array of herbicides available.

Consumers get confused about the large number of herbicides available to them at most garden centers, home improvement stores, and department stores. Much of this confusion comes from the fact that many herbicides are "off patent", which means they can be sold by any company that wants to sell them. This results in the production and sale of the same herbicide being sold under many different brand names. Registered brands such as Ortho, Spectracide, Bonide, Dragon, Hi-Yield, and Acme are commonly found in garden centers. The list of manufacturers is continually changing with the success and failure of businesses. Another point of confusion is that most herbicides are sold in both a granular and sprayable formulations. In general, granular formulations are easier to apply and have less of a chance of being incorrectly applied. However, due to cost or formulation constraints, some herbicides are available only in one type of formulation. A good example of this is Casoron, which is

available only in a granular formulation.

Write down the name and percentage of the **active ingredients** in the product, then compare this information with other brands in order to get your best buy. There is no difference in the active ingredients! The diquat in an Ortho brand is exactly the same as the diquat in a Spectracide brand.

Dif-



ference can occur in the percent of diquat in the formulation and the formulation itself. Some manufacturers add different surfactants or wetting agents to their sprayable concentrates. Granular formulations can be made with different materials, which can affect the rate at which herbicide is released. All of these factors can affect a herbicide's ability to control weeds.

Terms you should know when discussing herbicides are **preemergent**, **postemergent**, **selective** and **non-selective**. Preemergent herbicide is one that generally controls ungerminated seeds.

Postemergent herbicides generally control emerged plants. A few herbicides, such as Casoron, have both pre and postemergent activity. Herbicides may be selective or non-selective. If a herbicide is selective, it will have activity on some species of plants and not others. A good example is the registered brand Ornamec. Ornamec is a grass herbicide that only controls grass-type weeds. A non-selective herbicide is one that controls any vegetation to which it is applied. A good example is the registered brand Roundup. Roundup controls any vegetation it contacts.

Another term you should be aware of is **mode-of-action**. All herbicides (like medicine) work by a specific chemical mechanism or mode-of-action. A herbicide's mechanism is usually understood, but the mode-of-action of some herbicides is unknown or poorly understood. For example, Roundup inhibits the production of three amino acids. Plants treated with Roundup cannot manufacture these amino acids. Lacking these three amino acids, plants treated with Roundup cannot manufacture proteins and

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key enzymes. This causes the plants to simply starve to death.

The following are lists of preemergent and post-emergent herbicides that consumers commonly encounter. These herbicides do not require you to have an applicator's license when using these products on your own property. The active ingredients in these products can be sold alone or in combination with other herbicides.

Preemergent Herbicides:

Preemergent herbicides generally control weeds by preventing the germination of seed. Perennial plants that germinate from bulbs, corms, rhizomes, stolens or other vegetative structures are generally not controlled by a preemergent herbicide.

Postemergent Herbicides:

Generally, postemergent herbicides only control plants that are actively growing. Most postemergent herbicides, like Roundup, will not provide any preemergent activity and need to be applied to green tissue of a plant in order to be affective.

There are many restrictions on the uses of both preemergent and postemergent herbicides. Some can be applied over the top of actively growing ornamentals, and some cannot. For this

reason, it is extremely important to **read the directions (or labels)** that are provided with the herbicide. This will prevent unnecessary plant damage, or wasteful

uses of herbicides. If any questions about or are unsure about an appropriate use of a herbicide, contact your County Extension



you have herbicides, appropriate use of a herbicide, don't hesitate to contact your local Agent.

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	PREEMERGENT	HERBICIDES
TRADE NAME	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	WEEDS CONTROLLED
Caseron	dichlobenil	Spectrum of weed control is limited, but controls many difficult weeds such as Florida betony and Horsetails in many established woody ornamentals. Volatile and should only be used in the late fall, winter or early spring. Does provide postemergent activity to some weedy plant species.
Gallery	isoxaben	Controls many annual broadleaf weeds. Poor on annual grasses. Excellent preemergent control when mixed with other herbicides like surflan.
Pennant	metolachlor	Controls many annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds. Some preemergent activity on yellow nutsedge germinating from tubers.
Surflan	oryzalin	Controls many annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds. Excellent tank mixed with Roundup.
Ronstar	oxadiazon	Controls many annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.
Pendulum	pendimethalin	Controls many annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.
Factor, Barricade and others	proflam	Controls many annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.
Princep	simazine	Controls many annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.
Preen and Treflan	trifluralin	Weed control spectrum similar to that of Surflan. Applied prior to planting, under mulch, and incorporated into top 1 to 3 inches of soil (if possible).



Herbicides Available for Weed Control in Ornamental Beds,

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	POSTEMERGENT	HERBICIDES
<u>TRADE NAMES</u>	<u>ACTIVE INGREDIENT</u>	<u>WEEDS CONTROLLED</u>
Basagran T/O	bentazon	Controls yellow nutsedge and certain broadleaf weeds. Can be over-the-top of many ground covers such as English Ivy, Liriope, and pachysandra.
Envoy	clethodim	Controls a broad spectrum of actively growing grasses. Does not control broadleaf weeds or sedges. Can be used over-the-top of broadleaf ornamentals.
Reward and many others	diquat	Provides control of most emerged weeds. Does not control perennial weeds well. Provides visual control of weeds very quickly. Do not allow spray to contact foliage of actively growing plants.
Ornamec, Grass-B-Gon	fluzifop	Controls a broad spectrum of actively growing grasses. Does not control broadleaf weeds or sedges. Can be used over-the-top of broadleaf ornamentals.
Finale	glufosinate	Provides control of most emerged weeds. Does not control perennial weeds well. Do not allow spray to contact foliage of actively growing, desirable plants.
Roundup and others	glyphosate	Many formulations available. Provides control of most actively growing weeds. Control may take 10 to 14 days, but provides excellent control of perennial weeds. Provides no preemergent weed control. Do not allow spray to contact desirable plants.
Manage	halosulfuron	Excellent at controlling yellow and purple nutsedge. Must be applied directly to sedges without contacting desirable ornamentals.
Scythe and others	Potassium salts of fatty acids	Provides contact control of actively growing weeds. Do not allow spray to contact foliage of actively growing, desirable plants.
Vantage	sexhoxymidim	Controls many actively growing grasses. Does not control broadleaf weeds or sedges. Can be used over-the-top of broadleaf ornamentals.
Brush-B-Gone	triclopyr	Used to control woody plant material. Can be painted onto freshly cut stumps to prevent resprouting.

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*Thank you for the opportunity to serve
you!*

**M & M LANDSCAPE
AND LAWN, INC.**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE!!!!
www.MandMLandscapeandLawn.com

REFERENCES:

Koske, Thomas J., Tune-up Landscape Irrigation, Southern Landscape and Nursery, August, 2007.

Czarnota, Mark, Ph.D., Herbicides Available for Weed Control in Ornamental Beds, Southern Landscape and Nursery, August, 2007.

*It won't be long now until seriously cold
weather.*

**Now is the time for
winterization of your
irrigation system.**

**Call M & M Landscape and Lawn, Inc.
today to schedule winterization of your
irrigation system.**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!
(870) 368-5522

Owners, Jeff and Linda McAnally, are both Arkansas Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals.

Jeff has worked in the horticultural business since 1986. Operating first a residential and commercial lawn care business. M & M Landscape and Lawn, Inc. was incorporated in 1994 and we opened our garden center/greenhouse. Jeff, as President, monitors the day to day operations of the landscaping division. His training includes plant propagation workshops, Arkansas Certified Nurseryman Program #195, continuous study of horticultural books, literature and trade articles, yearly seminars at Arkansas Green Industry Association events.

Linda has been involved in greenhouse management and nursery retail since 1995. Linda has completed the ACNLP certification program #283, and oversees the day to day running of the retail nursery as well as works closely with the plant propagation and growing-on of cuttings and liners to a salable product.

WHY LANDSCAPE?

1. To make your home and neighborhood more beautiful, functional and enjoyable. Plants mark the changing seasons, and add grace and seasonal color. Landscaping makes a house feel like a home.
2. Conserve energy in the summer and save you money. Properly planted trees can cut your air-conditioning costs by 15-35%.
3. Increase your property values. Landscaping increases the perceived value of your property by as much as 15%.
4. Conserve energy in the winter. Proper landscaping can slow cold winter winds, and can cut your heating costs 10-20%.
5. Landscaping is fun. Planting and caring for plants can be a great family activity. Proper landscaping can attract beautiful butterflies and songbirds by providing nesting sites, food and cover for countless species.
6. Nightscaping lighting systems allow you to enjoy your landscape after dark, creating more time for hectic lifestyles.
7. Landscaping helps hold the soil in place and reduces erosion and runoff.
8. Create more usable space with proper terracing & retaining walls.