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DELL J. SADLER III, INC.

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Landscaping Newsletter and Garden Tips

April, 2012 Volume 97

April is already here and not a moment too soon. It always seems as if April 1st is the moment when we turn the corner from winter to spring. This year, it was a little tough to tell the difference!

April Garden Tips

- * The best thing about April is that it's TIME TO PLANT! One of the benefits of this past winter's warmer temperatures is that we can install plant material earlier in the season. The ground never really froze this year. So, we've already begun installing shrubbery and small trees. Landscaping plants and annuals will follow later this month and into May.
- * According to the University of Maryland's Extension Office, April 25 through May 5th is the best two weeks in the year to plant vegetables and herbs on the Eastern Shore. If we get a cold snap around that time, then delay planting for a week or so.
- * Do you need mulch this spring? You might not. If your landscape beds already have a sizable layer on them, don't add more. Do what the professionals do and break up the hard crust that has

A Personal Message

Excuse me, I seem to have lost the month of March. It must have won the prize for the fastest month on record.

Now it's April and I'm still traveling at warp speed. People older and wiser than myself have always told me that time goes by fast er as you age.

Now that I guess I'm older, does that mean I'm wiser too? Here's the thing. As the weather gets nicer, I want to change gear with my hobbies.

Cool weather hobbies such as cooking and developing my recipes are now being overtaken by the lure of fishing and planting my vegetable gardens. However, warmer weather also means I have to work twice as hard. Short of full retirement (which is a loooong way off), I'm exhausted trying to get it all done.

As Melissa constantly reminds me, apparently I'll never reach retirement age if I don't quit complaining and start working. Because she's going to kill me. So, I keep going. Wish I had an Energizer Bunny that could take my place. By the way, thank you for all the nice compliments on the new format for our newsletter. We're glad you like it. Remember to



We cleared the winter debris from this garden recently. Look at the difference!

formed over the winter months. This allows water to penetrate the mulch and get to the roots of the plant material. We call it "fluffing" the mulch. It takes some time, but you also have an extra added benefit. Your gardens will appear as if they have been freshly mulched...and it won't cost you a cent. Just make sure you have about a two inch layer of mulch as a base.

Driveway Weeds Driving You Crazy?

No matter how perfect your landscaping is, weeds along your driveway can make it appear disheveled. They make your property look tired and messy. Here's a money-saving tip for stone or gravel driveways.

You probably spray your driveway with Round-Up or you may have a professional come in and do the job for you. Landscapers like myself use a contractor's grade product that is similar to Round-Up, only much more effective. Our product usually lasts longer too, but it certainly doesn't last throughout the entire growing season.

Before you spray, I suggest that you treat the entire stone driveway with a granular pre-emergent herbicide. It has the extra added benefit of preventing weed seeds from germinating. That's where the savings part occurs. You won't have to use a Round-Up or "post-emergent" type product as often this year. Post emergents only kill weeds that you can see while pre-emergents prevent future weed growth.

like us on facebook for special offers. There's a facebook button at the top of this newsletter. If you friend my personal facebook page, which is "Dell Sadler", you'll probably only receive my latest recipe. Thanks for reading. See you next month.

Dell's Radio Interviews

Have you caught any of my discussions about landscaping with Matt Spence? We get together on WCEI radio (96.7 FM) on Thursdays at 8:10 AM.

Matt has an intense interest in all things outdoors. He manages to catch me by surprise every once in awhile and those discussions get pretty funny. However, mostly, we discuss gardening tips, outdoor chores and how to get the best value for your landscaping dollars.

We also tell you how to get discounts on landscaping services that you might not know about.

Tune in and give us a listen. Past interviews are also available on my website.

Natural/Organic Lawn Care

A "Healthy Lawn" Program

Our healthy lawn program is based on the use of the finest organic products and the extensive use of basic cultural practices.

We began to offer this natural/organic program on the Eastern Shore of Maryland about nine years ago. This highly successful, 80% non-toxic/low toxic method is now the only one we offer.

The program combines the use of organic fertilizers and composts with naturally occurring products to deter insects, fungus and diseases. By ensuring a strong lawn and using basic cultural practices, your lawn can out-compete weeds for needed nutrients. If you experience excessive weeds or crabgrass, we offer an effective program to combat these problems. In fact, weed controls are the only part of our program that are not natural and organic. Sometimes, lawns going through transition from chemically based fertilizers and harsh herbicides need this type of weed control. However, within a couple of years, lawns previously subjected to these harsh herbicides can be maintained virtually chemically free.

You need to expect a 3-5% natural weed involvement with our program. If you choose to have zero weeds in your lawn, you may need to select a program that uses harsher chemical toxins. However, we choose not to offer this type of alternative.

Tick Activity Noted Earlier Than Normal

Mild Winter Cited As Cause

Ticks in the mid-Atlantic region of the country were active much later in the year this past winter. They are also likely to be much more prevalent in 2012 due to lack of freezing temperatures.

Rainy weather also brings about increased tick activity. Our area, particularly the Eastern Shore, has seen a moderate wet winter; ideal for harboring ticks. We found several excellent articles about 2012 tick activity indicators on the internet. One of the best that we found is by Hartz, the pet flea and tick protection company.

Hartz quotes several vets that are concerned with possible increased tick activity this summer. They predict higher levels of activity than we've seen in the past two years. Go to [Hartz Pets Flea and Tick Activity for 2012](#). Click on this link and read more from their pet experts.

If you have pets and family that are outside frequently, you may be interested in our tick repellent program. Our program is 100% effective against ticks in our area.

I always make this guarantee. If we treat your property in the spring and again in the fall, I'll guarantee you won't find a tick on you.

Last year, I treated over 400 properties. I retreated three. We're VERY effective against the treatment of ticks in this area.

Evaluations and estimates are free. Please give us a call if you're interested.

\$25 Off Our Tick Repellent Spray

Dell J. Sadler III, Inc.
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Visit our website at dellsadler.com

This coupon is redeemable for \$25 off our tick repellent barrier spray when you sign up with us. You'll have peace of mind from the problems of a tick bite after we treat your property.

We'll customize a program designed to protect your outdoor areas from disease-carrying ticks. Keep your family, friends and even your pets safe during the warmer months!



Coupon expires August 31, 2012 One coupon per household.

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