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DELL J. SADLER III, INC.

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Landscaping Newsletter and Garden Tips

April, 2013 Volume 108

It's snowing today. I'm starting to write this newsletter for April in mid-March. And, it's snowing hard enough to cover the windshields of our trucks.



Probably the most snow I've seen all year.



A few of my daffodils struggle through the brief snow shower. I have the worst luck with daffodils...they looked bad before the snow. Now they're pathetic!

On to other news. I got a chance to go to New York in March. I was there for the St. Patrick's Day weekend. It snowed there too, so we didn't go downtown for the parade. I spoke with a police officer who said Manhattan was like a ghost town by mid-parade. Too cold even for green beer!

My new cat, Miss Cleopatra, misbehaved terribly while we were gone.

Cleo pulled down a stack of bath towels in the closet. She unrolled an entire roll of paper towels and scattered them around the bathroom. Continued her destruction on the battered, yet comfortable, old reclining chair.

And, apparently got into a fight with an outdoor cat that we've

never met. The outside screen door has hole in it about the size of an angry cat. And, the inside glass screen is smudged about the size of Cleo. Wonder who won?



Cleo in a saner moment.

As warmer weather approaches (except for today's snow which should turn to rain soon), we're working full steam ahead. Current projects include lawn fertilization, spring clean-ups and some design projects here and there. Soon, we'll be installing new plants.

Local nurseries are chock full of beautiful plants and the selection is at its' best right now. We'll even meet you at the nursery to help you choose which plants are best for your gardens.

Most nurseries in this area know us and will allow us to tag the

plants. We can pick them up and deliver them to you when we install them for you. Give me a call to let me know how we can best assist you.

April Garden Tips

* Last month, I mentioned we planted hundreds of crocus bulbs in the fall. Do you remember I predicted they wouldn't come up? A few of them are poking their heads up. Only a few. I have rotten luck with spring flowers.

* If your new plants are providing a delicious buffet for local deer, give us a call. Our natural/organic deer repellent is 100% guaranteed. The pleasant peppermint scent won't gag you like many other commercial repellents. Best of all, our price decreases after the first three months. The deer usually move to untreated plants after about three months. We're able to pass these savings along to you.

* Melissa is late starting her lettuce this year. She usually has a raised bed garden half full by this time. She plants different types of seeds for a veritable "salad bowl" of greens.



Melissa planted four different types of lettuce last year.

* Hostas and other perennials should be divided now before they begin to leaf out. If they grow overcrowded, the number of blooms may be reduced. You'll also have the advantage of extra plant material to fill in those bare spots where

plants didn't make it through the winter.

* This is the time of year to control pesky weeds with a good pre-emergent. We use a contractor's grade of granular pre-emergent. When applied properly, it can help reduce the amount of hand weeding that's necessary by up to 70%.

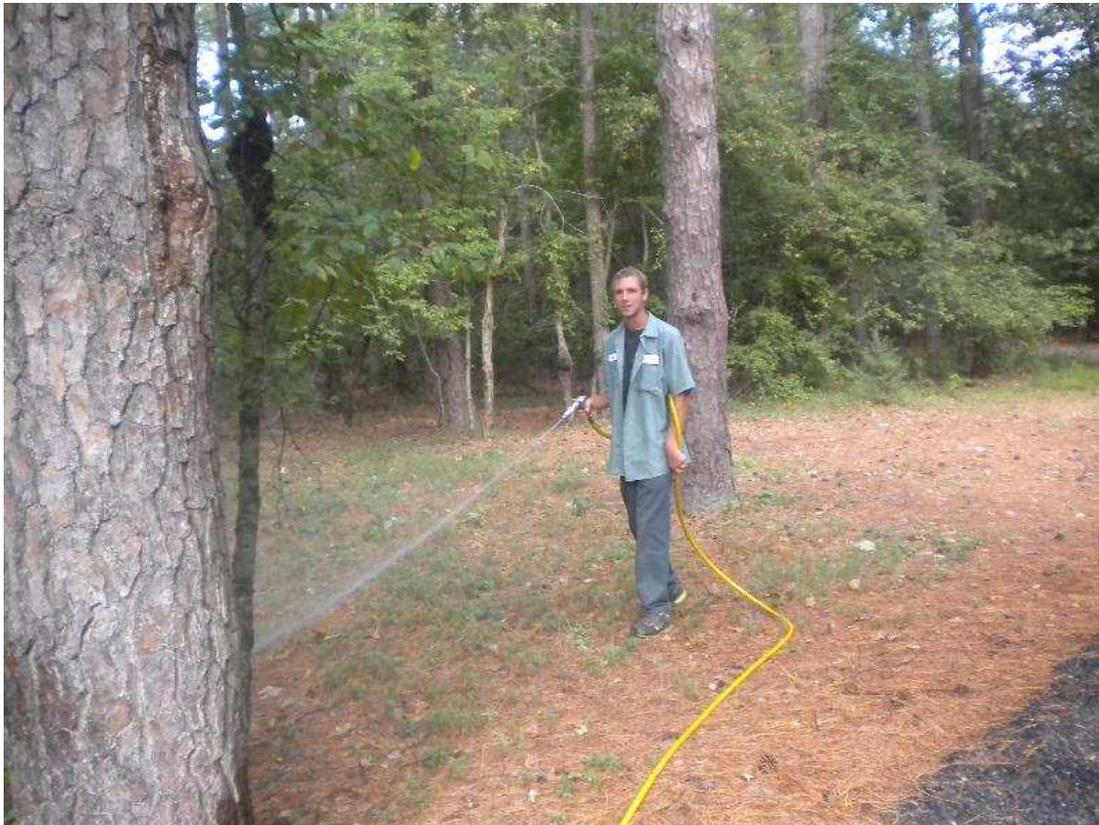
* Best mowing practices suggest that the first cut of the season leaves the grass at 2 1/2 - 3 inches tall. I always recommend that clippings be left on the lawn, unless they're so thick they block the sunlight. Grass needs sunlight for the process of photosynthesis. If clippings, especially at the first mowing, are too heavy, remove them. Otherwise, clippings can add up to a pound or so or nitrogen (good for your grass!)

Tick Repellent

One day, about five years ago, Melissa and I went to Ocean City for a long weekend. It was in early May.

We had worked hard that year and it was a well deserved getaway. While we were there, what I thought was a bug bite on my left side, began to fester. It got so bad that we cut the vacation short and came straight back to my doctor's office.

It was an infected tick bite. I went directly from his office to the hospital for a stay of several days. I remained on antibiotics for about a month afterward. They were really devastating to my system. I had to stay out of the sun...and it was the beginning of summer. My eyesight was cloudy. I generally felt weak for several months afterward.



One of our applicators sprays a heavily wooded area on a property.

Many Eastern Shore homes are near woods like this.

I thought that was bad...but there's more to this story.

Two years ago, my Dad who is a retired tree surgeon, contracted Lyme Disease. He was in the hospital for two weeks. Dad lost about 25 pounds over the course of three months. The effects of Lyme Disease has remained with him for several years.

The last and most recent episode was the worst. Two years ago, I contracted Ehrlichiosis. It's a tickborne disease that affects white blood cells.

It began like a bad case of the flu. There were sweats and chills. Extreme fever. Lack of appetite. Shaky hands and cold feet. And, that was just the beginning.

I went back to the same doctor who treated me before. Fortunately, he began a course of medication for a tick borne illness immediately.

However, three days later, I returned to my doctor in much worse condition. I wasn't even able to drive myself to his office by then. I was in the initial stages of delirium. He correctly diagnosed me with Ehrlichiosis, a disease that was attacking my white blood cells.

I was sent immediately to the emergency room. The hospital admitted me to Critical Care within hours. That's where I stayed for the next five days.

Eventually, I was discharged and sent home with a whole host of medications. I was as weak as a kitten. Most of my time over the next month was spent in bed.

Happily, I've had a full recovery and am now telling everyone about my tick repellent program. I make sure it really works.

The reason for such detail about myself is to convince you that tick borne illnesses are very real in this area.

My Dad and I work outside for a living. We know the hazards of ticks. Yet, we managed to have severe health issues from a single bite.



Technicians apply our barrier spray to the lawn and wooded areas.

I developed our tick repellent program after my infection. After extensive research, I now offer a perimeter spray for ticks that is guaranteed to be effective. We'll return to your property and respray selected areas, if you find another tick.

We've added an additional layer of protection to the program. Damminix tubes are one of my favorite parts of this service.

They're cardboard tubes, much like the roll from paper towels. They contain cotton balls which have been soaked in permethrin. It's deadly to ticks, but not for mice, squirrels and birds who take the cotton back to their nests.

Permethrin rubs off on the fur of the mouse or squirrel. Ticks are killed in their nests and can't be transferred to you.

Please contact us for a no-cost estimate. We spray your property once in the spring and once in the fall for guaranteed results.

\$25 Off Our Tick Repellent Spray

Dell J. Sadler III, Inc.
955 South Talbot Street
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410.770.5882
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!

One coupon per property, please.



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