

A Personal Message

It seems as if I misplaced the month of April. I was watching the Travel Channel late one night about April in Paris. I decided the Eastern Shore of Maryland has Paris beat hands down. Last month was beautiful here, thanks to all the heavy rains in late winter.

Now, May has arrived and I'm determined to enjoy it. It's a busy month in the garden and I always enjoy puttering there. The seeds we started indoors will be installed in our landscape beds and Melissa's containers all around the property.

There's space for herbs and a few vegetables. Years ago, we had six gardens, full of assorted goodies. Since our home is now situated on commercial property, we've had to scale the gardening way back. However, we have found some creative ways to plant, including a planter that grows tomatoes upside down. We're trying it for the first time this year, so we'll keep you posted on our progress.

Four types of lettuce should be ready to harvest later this month. And, I confess to already snipping a bit of basil and dill here and there. Melissa yells at me for cutting the herbs too soon, but she loves my cooking and usually lets me get away with it.

We've started different types of flowers this year also. Marigold seeds sprouted almost immediately after planting. We always use lots of vines in our containers, so we've started several varieties. Last year, we began using a Black-Eyed Susan vine that we loved. We had never seen it before, but we're growing it again. It has small yellow flowers and beautiful foliage.

Improvements continue to flourish here at 955 South Talbot Street in beautiful St. Michaels. Our home, office and warehouse space still seems new to us, even though we moved in about a year and a half ago. We're building a white picket fence from scratch. I designed the fence myself, taking inspiration from a old church that is now a home in Oxford.

The fence surrounds the old church and it's exquisite. The current owner allowed me to take pictures of her property and now our fence replicates this melding of old and new ideas.

Don't forget that we have lots of plant material available now. The greenhouse is abloom with Japanese and bearded iris. Azaleas and geraniums are blazing with color too. Give us a call and we'll let you know what looks good right now. A price list can be emailed or faxed to you.

Garden Tips

- Container gardening is so much fun. When you plant a container with eye-catching plants, it gives you instant gratification. Our best tip for container gardening is to choose plants that have the same growing and care requirements. Make sure that the plants you choose are correct in terms of the light and temperature location of your container.
- *We're working lime around our hydrangea plants this spring. We decided that we'd like pink flowers this year. If you want blue blossoms, use aluminum sulphate in the soil around your plants.
- Mulch is useful in so many ways. No matter what type you choose, it gives a finished look to your landscaping. It cuts down on weed growth and aids in retaining moisture during the heat of summer. Just don't pile it on too deep. One and a half to two inches of mulch is enough for any landscape bed. We also like to fluff the existing layer of mulch around this time of year. It removes the hard crust that formed during the winter and visually, makes it appear as it did when the mulch was first applied.
- Remember to harden off indoor plants that you want to move outdoors. Bring them outside only for a short time initially, then increase the time gradually.

List of Programs and Services

PROGRAMS

Natural/Organic Lawn Program: *We use only natural/organic fertilizers and top quality grass seed. Our program is 80% non-toxic and includes disease, weed and pest deterrents. Please contact us for a free lawn evaluation.*

Monthly Property Maintenance: *Weeding is available as needed or on a regular monthly schedule. There is no minimum charge for the monthly program and no contract is required.*

Natural/Organic Deer Repellent Program: *The deer repellent program is applied on a periodic basis throughout the year. There is absolutely no possibility of harm to the deer because only natural/organic, non-toxic products are used.*

Tick Repellent Service: *Our integrated approach to tick control begins with a barrier tick repellent service. We may also suggest brush removal, Damminix tube placement and deer repellent spray as part of a total package of tick management.*

SERVICES

Mulching: *We apply a wide variety of locally available mulches for top dressing and plant protection purposes. Also, we stock pine straw mulch for a truly unique look.*

Weeding: *Weeding crews are available on an as needed basis or you may choose a regular monthly schedule. There are no minimum charges for the monthly maintenance program.*

Edging: *We create and maintain edges for landscaped beds and driveways. Also, ask us about permanent edging solutions.*

Care of Landscape Ornamentals: *A complete maintenance program of trimming and shaping your ornamentals is available as needed or as part of our regular monthly program. Please contact us about the fertilization needs of your valuable shrubs and ornamentals.*

Soil Amendments: *We use a variety of composted products to amend the topsoil in your landscaped gardens and beds. You may want to consider mushroom-based, pelletized compost which adds organic matter to your plant material and is odor-free.*

Debris Hauling: *Many customers maintain their property themselves and hire us only to haul away debris. We have the equipment to move both large and small quantities efficiently and cost-effectively.*

Installation of Flower & Landscaped Beds: *Whether you work with a landscape architect or design the project yourself, we are available to provide the labor and materials necessary to complete your job.*

Woods Restoration: *We can turn your woods into a park-like setting. Programs to remove poison ivy and other unwanted vegetation from your woods are available.*

Leaf Removal: *Complete leaf removal service is available for your entire property. However, our large leaf vacuum can also assist you in removing piles of leaf debris you have prepared.*

Wood Splitting: *Our wood splitter has the equivalent of 22 tons of pressure and can split almost any large piece of wood. Or, for the do-it-yourselfer, the splitter may be rented on a daily basis.*

Please contact us if you need a service that is not listed above. We specialize in providing unique outdoor services that will meet your individual needs. We are willing to perform the entire job or assist you with any portion of your project.