



Here's a side view of the garden I built for Melissa. The bridge leads across the lawn to our warehouse.

## A Personal Message

Have you ever seen a prettier spring? Apparently the chilly weather this year helped produce one of the most stunning displays that Mother Nature has shown in recent years.

The visual beauty didn't last long enough to suit my fancy. Forty mile an hour winds that occurred over the Palm Sunday weekend blew away many of our spring blossoms that were just getting started. Guess we'll have to try again next year.

I built a raised bed garden for Melissa this year. Dad got one too. It's 8'x 8' and stands about three feet off the ground. There's a nice edge at the top level so they can sit while they garden, if necessary.

We used treated lumber to minimize damage to the wood over the years. We had raised bed gardens when we lived in Easton several years ago. However, they were only about a foot above the ground. Melissa and Dad got the deluxe version. I expect to be repaid with my weight in homegrown vegetables this summer.

The First Lady has certainly done a world of good for my business with her White House kitchen garden. I've heard them called "Recession Gardens." And of course, I remember hearing about "Victory Gardens" that flourished during World War II.

Why does the popularity of gardening wax and wane during certain eras? To me, gardening is a lifelong activity that I plan to enjoy as long as I enjoy eating. To others, it must be a fad that comes and goes in boom and bust times. I just don't understand that philosophy. Then again, I'm not the trendiest fellow around.

We've started many seeds indoors again this year. Some were more successful than others. It's tough to plant seeds that are smaller than the head of a pin.

My lettuce still hasn't fully developed and I may have planted the sugar snap peas too late. We gardeners tend to be fretful when it comes to certain vegetables and flowers.

Each year, we plan to have certain plant material in certain places. And without fail, each year, we

experience failure with some plants and unbridled success with others. For example, I'll have marigolds (a natural insect deterrent, I'm told) in every garden I own this year.

If you're interested in establishing a garden this year, please give us a call. We have untold experience with certain types of plant material. Melissa or I would be happy to discuss what works for us...and just as happy to tell you about past failures too!



Our red and yellow tulips are beginning to bloom as the daffodils faded for the spring.

## May Garden Tips

- May is the month for installing plant material. If you haven't already planted those summer annuals, let us help. If it's more than you can handle, we can pick up plant material that you've selected and bring it home. Most local nurseries will allow you to set aside the plants for pick-up. Just be sure to let us know promptly so the nursery doesn't have to keep them for long. You'll want them planted as soon as possible so that you can enjoy the show...all summer long.
- If you're planting annuals from seed, you probably already have them started. If not, it's okay to plant them now. Consider succession planting for color all summer long.
- We installed a drip system to water young plants around our own gardens. It's WONDERFUL! We aren't tied to the back end of a hose all summer. I guess you'd say we're now advocates for drip hoses because they have really made our lives so much easier.
- The seed package promised to electrify our garden with fiery bursts of color. It also said they were edible. So, we tried Nasturtiums last year. They were stunning in their brilliant reds and yellows. And, yes, we tossed them in a salad. They didn't have much taste, but the vivid colors sure made the salad look pretty.



## List of 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.

**Landscape Design:** We now have a designer on staff who is trained in the use of indigenous plant material. He prefers to use plants that grow well in our climate. Best of all, he will be a part of your installation team as your design is put into place. Unlike many landscape architects, he actually assists the crew as they install plant material to assure your new landscaping is as beautiful on your property as it is on paper.



## 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.

**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.

**Lawn Mowing:** Two brand new Bob-Cat mowers make quick work of your unruly lawn. We weedeat the edges and blow off your driveway and sidewalks.