



Told you they were gorgeous! There is an entire row of these trees and they were spectacular.



Here are some more trees on this same property. It looked like a cherry blossom festival, right here in St. Michaels.

I'm so fortunate. My job allows me to be on many of your beautiful properties. The "view from my office window" changes every day. Can you tell I really love my job? Another part of my job I love are my live interviews each week on WCEI (96.7) radio. Every Thursday morning at 8:10 AM, Matt Spence and I discuss landscaping. His co-host, Mo, is also on the air with us.

We talk about seasonal garden tips and what needs to be done outdoors right now. Matt has a real interest in landscaping projects. He's also a very funny guy. Our interviews veer way off course sometimes. But, we always have fun.

I'm also on the air with Matt on Mondays, discussing our sister company, ReCon Pest Control. We're live on WCEI on Mondays at 8:50 AM. We discuss the wonderful world of bugs, critters and other varmints every Monday.

If you're interested, many of the interviews are on my websites. For landscaping, go to <u>dellsadler.com</u>. And, if you need information about bugs, please check out reconpest.com.

We're very proud of <u>reconpest.com</u>. Our office built the entire site and it's wonderfully interactive.

I'm especially proud of "What's This Pest? It has photographs of many pests to help you identify what is causing your problem. In turn, this helps us recommend the proper treatment to get rid of your problem.

I'll look forward to the possibility of assisting you with your landscaping and pest control needs.

April Garden Tips

* May is one of the best months to have fun in the garden. Usually, you've cleared out the winter debris by now. Cleaned up the beds. Added compost to improve the soil. Added pre-emergent to help prevent weeds. And mulched to





Here's a great example. We cleaned out this landscape bed, using all the steps I outlined above. We'll return in May to plant her colorful annuals that will fill in all these bare spots.

* Remove spent blooms on tulips, daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs. The plant will put all of its energy into growing new bulbs. **Leave the leaves!** Leaves are needed to form new bulbs so don't pick them off. They'll die and fall off the plant in early summer.

* Years ago, we invested in plant supports for some of our beautiful, but otherwise ungainly plants. We've never regretted it. Take a few moments and stake peonies, delphiniums and other tall, floppy plants before the plants get too tall. The growing plants will hide the supports and plants won't be damaged during a sudden thunderstorm.

* Plant tomatoes, peppers and other garden goodies after all danger of frost is gone and the soil is warm. This is usually around the first of May for our region. Plant tomatoes in a different spot each year to reduce fungus disease problems. I've learned this lesson the hard way...after several years of soft, mushy tomatoes that featured lots of brown spots.



Here's a photograph of Melissa's garden from 2012. See the tomato plants? They're in the same spot as they were from previous years. We bought a lot of tomatoes from local produce stands last year. The lettuce was really good though!

Our Tick Repellent Program

If you've ever found a tick on yourself, you'll remember the feeling of disgust as you dislodge the tick from your skin. Because of my previous tick-borne illnesses, I even have a brief panic attack whenever I see a tick on or near me.

Let me take a moment to tell you why I developed our very effective tick repellent program.



Here's Kyle spraying a heavily wooded area that borders a client's property.

Ticks carry deadly toxins that can affect people and animals. I've had two incidents of tick borne disease. The first was bad. The second one was almost fatal.

I was bitten by a tick about six years ago, which caused a severe infection. I landed in the hospital for several days. Then, I had to take two courses of antibiotics. The effects lasted several months. The antibiotics were almost worse than the infection.

Then, three years ago, I was bitten again. This time, I developed Ehrlichiosis. This is a bacterial infection caused by a tick bite. It attacks, infects and may kill off white blood cells.

I developed respiratory and circulatory problems. By the time I was admitted to the hospital, I was in the initial stages of delirium. Fortunately, for me, my doctor diagnosed the disease correctly from the first day. Unfortunately, I spent five days in critical care as the disease took its' course.

Even after I returned home, I wasn't well enough to work. I suffered severe headaches from the spinal tap, used to test how far the disease had

progressed. After a month in bed, I was finally able to resume a light work schedule.

I provided these details just to prove how serious a tick bite may be. In response to my health problems, I decided to make effective tick repellent my mission. And, I've been providing tick repellent service to people for the past six years.



Kyle cuts a wide swath through the lawn with our barrier tick repellent spray.

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 also 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



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