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**Natural/Organic Lawn Care
Landscape Maintenance**

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**Tick Repellent Program
Natural Deer Repellent Service**

Monthly Newsletter

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November Garden Tips

* One of the best ways to protect favorite plants, especially new ones, during the coming cold weather months is with a layer of mulch. It helps insulate against the wind and prevents possible erosion. Mulch also helps reduce evaporation and keeps plant material hydrated.

TOP TIP OF THE MONTH!

* Check your own gardens and shrubbery to see if you have anything beautiful for your Thanksgiving table. We found several of our own plants such as beautyberries are gorgeous in a cornucopia at this time of year. Plus, it's fun to say that it came from your own garden.

* Are there any plants or trees that may need staking or tying to a support? Take a moment to walk around your property and evaluate the need for stakes or a guy wire system. It's a whole lot cheaper to support a plant now than it is to replace a tree next spring.

* Evergreen trees lose a lot of moisture through their needles or leaves during the winter. It's a good idea to give them one last watering before it freezes, especially if they're in a windy area. Of course, if the rains continue, use your best judgment.

A Personal Message

Guess I'll begin with the bad news first. I probably have a severe tick borne illness. And, it won't be the first time I've suffered ill effects from a tick bite.

In early October, I began with flu-like symptoms. I spent two days with chattering teeth, being desperately cold or drenched in sweat before I contacted my doctor. Severe headaches, a spiking fever and joint pain soon followed. My knees hurt so badly that I could barely walk.

My doctor has run a battery of tests, but still says he doesn't have the final diagnosis.

In the meantime, I'm taking a full course of antibiotics for a tick bite.

They'll test me again in three weeks to see if that's a correct diagnosis for my symptoms.

You may remember reading that four years ago, I was hospitalized for a severe infection from a tick bite. It didn't develop into full-blown Lyme Disease at that time, but I was one sick fellow. Just ask Melissa.

This is probably a revenge attack from the local tick population. Our tick repellent program has grown steadily this year. I am physically on a lot of properties, providing estimates for our tick repellent spray. These properties are untreated and are usually crawling with ticks. I'm a professional landscaper and take all the proper precautions. However, if it can happen to me, it may happen to you also.

Ticks are a very real threat on the Eastern Shore. My program works to exterminate them without any harm to humans or even the local squirrel population.

Between treating properties for ticks and installing lawns (between the raindrops) this fall has been the busiest one in the history of my company. We're almost finished putting seed and fertilizer on many lawns in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties.

And, while that's good news for me, I'm passing it along as a piece of information for you too. I actually hired two additional new people this fall. We are a small business that is seeing some hope in the economy. There are over 15 people that now work for me. We raise families, pay taxes and purchase goods and services.

We're not at the point we were several years ago when I employed over 20 people. However, I thought I'd mention that I'm seeing what is hopefully a light at the end of the tunnel. It's tenuous at best, but we've got a lot of staying power. My employees and I are grateful to have jobs and we're here for the long run.

2011 Leaves are Finally Changing Colors

Autumn leaves didn't start changing color until extraordinarily late this year. Ever wonder why?

We know that an early frost speeds up the color changing. We also know that warm weather delays it.

Although we've had a rainy fall, it stayed very warm. That brisk change in temperature during late October began the process in earnest. Now we're starting to see the real results of autumn.

Leaves that have changed color are absolutely beautiful...until they pile up in your yard.

It is important to keep leaves off your lawn in the fall and over the winter. Excess leaves can restrict sunlight, nutrients and water from reaching your lawn. Removing leaves from your lawn helps to prevent your lawn from suffering disease, insects and overall stress, not to mention dead spots in the lawn. Fallen leaves can also smother grass, especially on newly seeded lawns. We recommend gently blowing, then vacuuming the leaves off your lawn. Raking will tear the new roots from the soil, destroying the tender seedlings.

We're equipped with a commercial leaf vacuum to do the complete job quickly and efficiently. Our leaf vacuum is the size that many towns and municipalities use for their leaf removal programs.

No time consuming leaf bagging or bag removal is involved. Our large vacuum compresses and recycles unwanted leaves into a compact load. We can haul away larger amounts of debris than most of our competitors.

Having a party this Holiday season? Be sure that your outdoor areas look as beautiful as the inside of your home. We offer rapid response leaf removal just in case you forget about it until the last moment.

And if you're a do-it-yourselfer, consider us a resource. We'll send our vacuum to remove piles that you've prepared. No waiting for the town to pick them up while the wind carries them back into your yard. Call us for a no-cost estimate. There's no obligation for the meeting.

Dell's Illness

This is Melissa writing a special column for this month's newsletter. I'm Dell's fiancée.

Dell is now back home from the hospital after being in critical care for almost a week. The origin of his illness is still unknown.

He began suffering from what we originally thought was the flu three weeks ago. He went downhill rapidly after the first two days and finally consented to see his doctor. I've never seen him so ill.

After being treated at the doctor's office, he went home briefly. He became so ill at home, that he was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Dell received treatment at the ER that day and came back home. However the following day, he relapsed and was admitted to the hospital for almost a week. He has only been at home for several days. Now, he's on complete and total bed rest (doctor's orders!) for quite some time to come.

There is no diagnosis for Dell's illness. The medical staff has run the gamut of tests from blood work to a spinal tap. However, they believe he is suffering from a tick bite. He is on medication for this infection.

As you may remember, Dell has one of the largest tick repellent services on the Eastern Shore. He visits several hundred untreated properties during the course of a year.

Dell knows how to check himself against the possibility of a tick bite. However, if it happened to a consummate professional like Dell, there's a good chance it could happen to you also.

After seeing Dell in this frail condition, I don't want this happen to you. I hope you'll consider protecting you and your family from ticks this year.



This sign is in front of our office.