

Garden Tips

- Fall is the ideal time to transplant your perennials. An extra added bonus can come in the form of dividing your larger perennials. If you have unruly plants that have outgrown their space, divide them and you'll have some additional plants for your landscape beds.
- You can still plant spring bulbs like daffodils and tulips, but please hurry. Most bulbs like at least half a day of sunlight, so it's a race against the clock at this point. bulbs also like well-drained soil, so it's a good idea to work some compost into the soil when you plant. We can do the planting work for you or here's another alternative for the do-it-yourselfer. We offer bags of pelletized compost at a very reasonable price. This compost comes in pellet form and is virtually odorless.
- When Here's a tip for plants for indoor plants. Soil that is pulled away from the rim means inadequate watering. Soak the entire pot in a sink full of water, then allow it to drain thoroughly. It seems as if autumn is finally here to stay. This year, it was difficult to distinguish summer from fall. We broke "high temperature" records on at least three days that I know of during October. I must admit to you that I am truly embarrassed about the state of my front yard. A mountain of fill dirt remains in one corner of the parking lot. Small piles of white riverstone and other types of rock dot the front of the property. We haven't finished any of the beautiful garden beds that I plan to install. All in all, things look mighty grim as you travel past our offices on your way into St. Michaels.

A Personal Message

I do apologize for the lack of progress. Our efforts have been stymied this fall due to the amount of work we're doing for our clients. It's been one of the busiest autumns on record for us.

However, when it's possible, I break off a small crew to work on building our white picket fence. They are working on the 2nd floor of our warehouse, which is directly beside the offices. So, we are making some progress, even though it's invisible as you pass by. As the weather grows cooler, I plan to schedule a crew to work on our own projects once again. But for now, they are busy completing on-demand projects for various clients.

On a truly personal note, I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the time Melissa was in the hospital recently. During the week she was hospitalized, it seems as if I had to reschedule every single meeting. Jobs were rescheduled too and I apologize for any inconvenience I may have caused. Melissa is back at home now, after undergoing surgery on her leg. She has been on a regimen of blood thinners after her stroke three years ago. Unfortunately, she began to spontaneously bleed into her right leg about a month ago. Her doctors think the blood thinners may have aggravated this situation, but we're not sure of the exact cause.

It's good to have her home, but she faces a rather lengthy recuperation period and will also undergo physical therapy once again. We're both big believers in physical therapy, especially since I was told that Melissa would never walk again after her stroke. She proved them wrong that time and I firmly believe she'll walk again after she recuperates from this incident.

Here's hoping you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

The Dreaded Leaf Removal Season is Here

Remember how happy we were last spring when all the new leaves began to emerge? Now, in November, we'll be just as happy to see them disappear.

Fallen leaves are actually dangerous for several reasons. If they are wet, it's easy to slip and fall on them. Cars love to skid on them and can often go out of control. Bicycles can skid too, sometimes resulting in injury.

If leaves are dry, they can present a fire hazard, if someone is careless with a cigarette. Also, if a car is parked over fallen leaves, heat from underneath the car can cause combustion. Just try explaining that scenario to your insurance company!

Leaves can clog storm drains and culverts, causing water to back up and flood the lawn or possibly, even the house. They can stop up rain gutters, causing damage to the house or roof, especially if allowed to freeze. However, from a landscaper's point of view, fallen leaves are the most detrimental to your lawn. To us, it's vitally important to remove leaves from your lawn. They block sunlight which is vital for the growth and development of your turfgrass.

A lack of light reduces photosynthesis production. Grass needs the nutrients that occur during photosynthesis, even during periods of freezing weather.

When the weather is cooler, your lawn manufactures food in its' root system. This way, grass can actually continue to grow underground, even during the dormant season.

In fact, your lawn needs food and sunlight now more than ever. The grass is preparing for an extended

period of cold weather, just like us.

Whether you opt to rake them yourself or if you want a professional service, we may be able to help. We're available to vacuum piles of leaves that you've created quickly and efficiently. Or, our brand-new leaf vacuum and industrial size blowers can make short work of a messy lawn.

Our new vacuum is actually designed for municipal use. However, due to the volume of leaf removal jobs we completed over the past few years, we decided to bite the bullet and purchase top of the line equipment. In fact, our salesman requested that we delay delivery on our vacuum by one week because they wanted to display our model in his store. This new piece of equipment really does look impressive.

The leaf vacuum features a lightweight, 10 foot hose which allows us to reach more of your property than ever before. We can stay on your driveway and blow leaves right up to the vacuum without moving heavy equipment over your lawn.

Additionally, this vacuum mulches the leaves as it vacuums them up. This means we can haul away large, compacted loads of leaves in a timely, efficient manner. Please call us if we can help.