

A Personal Message

October is such a swell month. It's colorful and fun. The crunch of the Holidays isn't quite here yet, so there's time to enjoy autumn. We were able to plant a few vegetables in late summer and we're now enjoying salads with our home-grown lettuce. We've got basil, dill and cilantro growing in containers too. With a little luck, I'll be able to use fresh herbs when I cook our Thanksgiving dinner. Last year's meal saw 21 people at my table. Have you seen our new website yet? We're getting lots of visitors to the site since it offers a great deal of information.

One of the best features of the website is an archive of our older newsletters. They're full of garden tips and seasonal information about landscaping on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. You can even read about the travels of our ancient cat, Mr. Hobson. Melissa and I write these newsletters on our home computer and they are available at no charge. If you would like to receive them, please go to www.dellsadler.com and sign up on our Contact Us page. Additionally, we wrote the text for the website. The photographs were taken during our jobs on local properties. We're very proud of the site and hope you'll take a peek at what we have to offer.

As believers in an organic style of life, we are hoping to reduce our impact on the environment. We are making a concerted effort to help minimize the number of paper copies that we mail. This is one way we can help to reduce our carbon footprint.

Currently, we mail over 6,000 copies of these newsletters to Talbot and Queen Anne counties. If you have an email address, please allow us to switch you to an electronic copy of the newsletter. Call or email us and we'll be happy to assist you. Just to keep you posted on current events, I'll let you know that we're still installing lawns and applying fertilizer. Fall is the time of year that we install most of our lawns.

It's the perfect time of year for overseeding too. Cooler weather helps grass seed to germinate. Fertilizer needs to be applied now to help prepare your lawn for the cold weather that's ahead. I hope you'll take a moment to read about our new piece of aeration equipment. It's one of the best new aeration devices to be developed in a long time. We have a lot of beautiful weather left to enjoy, so we hope you're having a wonderful fall.

Garden Tips

- It's not too late to plant daffodil and tulip bulbs for next spring. You'll be so thrilled to see their blooms next year.
- Remember, don't fertilize houseplants that will go dormant over the winter. If you have amaryllis and paperwhites, it's a good idea to start fertilizing them now for Holiday blooming.
- Mulch can help your plants make it through the winter in a healthy manner. Mulch really does protect plant material by retaining moisture. It also helps to protect plants from freezing temperatures.
- Fall is the best time of year to plant trees, ornamental grasses, shrubs and perennials. Installing plant material in the fall allows them to begin their new life in cooler temperatures. Roots will penetrate the soil far better now than during the hot months of summer.
- Have you noticed the blooming vines along our fence? They're called Hyacinta bean vines and they're the prettiest things I've ever seen. The foliage is a deep green and the flowers are light purple. They bloom upward in clusters. We planted them throughout our gardens this year and we've enjoyed them through the entire summer. We're saving the beans and the plants will be available next spring.



Leaves are falling...again!

Why are we plagued with falling leaves every year? I actually like to see leaves on the trees, not all over my yard and driveway. But, asking why won't get me very far in life. I'm better off using my breath to get rid of the leaves instead of constantly berating them.

Over the years, we've become pros at leaf removal. Last year, we purchased a brand new leaf vacuum that is actually designed for municipal use. Our volume of leaf removal jobs made us decide to buy top-of-the-line equipment. We can now complete your job even more quickly and efficiently.

Additionally, we own industrial backpack leaf blowers. No more raking leaves across a vast expanse of lawn. We now blow them to a central location and vacuum them up. We save you time and money this way. The leaf vac 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. Our heavy equipment doesn't have to move all over your lawn.

This vacuum also mulches leaves as it removes them from your property. What this means is that we can haul away large, compacted loads of leaves in a short period of time.

Here's another way we may be able to help. If you're a do-it-yourselfer and want to rake leaves into piles, we can remove them for you. We'll swing by and haul piles of leaves away at a very reasonable price. So, whether you opt for a full service fall cleaning or could just use a little help to complete the job, please give us a call. We make short work of a messy lawn

My New Toy

I just purchased a new piece of equipment that is fairly revolutionary in the world of lawn care. It's called an Aeravator and it's from Toro Products. What makes this machine state of the art is the fact that it aerates and overseeds at the same time. Another beautiful thing about it is that it doesn't pull plugs from the soil and deposit them on the lawn when it aerates. Older equipment made it look like your lawn had just been plowed.

The aeravator features solid tines that seem to wiggle before hitting the turf. They actually shatter the ground. These tines will punch the requisite holes in the ground, then break up the soil between the holes. This process "softens" the soil so that seed and fertilizer have better contact as they hit the ground.

There's a wonderful demo on the manufacturer's website. Go to www.1stproducts.com and take a look at their home page. The demo is right at the bottom of the page. You'll see the wiggling tines and the seeder passing over the top as the attachment is pulled behind a tractor.

The aeration process is instantly followed by the seeding process. A large seed box is perched on top of this attachment. Grass seed is poured into the box and seed falls through clear plastic tubes below. You can actually watch the seed as it hits the ground.

This aeravator features a swing hitch that allows the attachment to follow the contours of your property. One of the biggest problems we face is applying grass seed where it doesn't belong, like in landscape beds. We don't have that problem with our new attachment because it follows the tractor path exactly.

When making the decision to purchase this tractor attachment, I personally reviewed five or six models. This attachment established the best soil to seed contact that I saw.

If you're interested in a demonstration, give us a call. We can arrange for you to watch us in action as we go through our lawn care procedures.