

## A Personal Message

Each month (except January), we write a newsletter and put it on our website, [dellsadler.com](http://dellsadler.com). It's chock full of gardening tips, landscaping information and up to date information about me and my company.

This newsletter is always free. You can view several years of past issues on the website. And, we promise never to share your email address with anyone.

This month, we're mailing paper copies of our newsletters to everyone. We believe that this is a good way to conclude the series of mailings about our natural/organic lawn care program.

You've already received our previous brochures. Our lawn care program is 80% organic and non-toxic. We can provide you with a lush green lawn for about the same price as a chemically-based program.

This is a subject that I'm passionate about. We've been providing lawn care for over 10 years. Natural/organic lawn care is now the only option we choose to provide. You get a beautiful lawn. I get the opportunity to work for you. The environment gets a break from all the toxic fertilizers which harm all of us, especially our beloved Chesapeake Bay. It's a win-win situation.

I saw a TV special about the Bay recently. It said that runoff from agriculture is the number one pollutant for the Bay. Lawn fertilizers are the second leading cause of runoff pollution. That's scary stuff.

In other news, this fall is shaping up nicely. We've been busy with the usual fall projects. Although we haven't started leaf removal yet, there's all sorts of garden projects that need to be done. We always do a lot of plant installations in the fall. Autumn is the second best time for planting, after spring, of course.

Melissa planted a fresh crop of cool weather vegetables in both of her raised bed gardens last month. We're anxiously awaiting more lettuce and fresh greens. She grew collard and mustard greens for the first time last spring. We loved them! I use my homemade chicken stock to cook the greens. My stock is somewhat smoky. It's wonderful and gives the greens a great flavor.

Can you tell I love to cook? I also enjoy developing recipes from scratch. Since we now feature a Recipe of the Week on the website, you can tell that I love food, especially the fresh food from our own gardens.

Hope you've enjoyed hearing from us through these mailings. If we can assist you with any outdoor projects, please give us a call soon!

## October Garden Tips

- \* There's still LOTS to do in your garden this month. Here's a few projects that should be completed soon.
- \* It's a great time to plant trees and shrubbery. Fruit trees would make a wonderful addition to your land- scaping next year. You can still get good deals at your local nursery now.
- \* Finish planting your spring flowering bulbs. Tulips may be planted until November, but everything else should go in by the end of this month.
- \* There's still time to set out pansies and winter cabbage. We like to keep a little color in our own gardens for as long as possible.
- \* You can add compost to your soil now for maximum benefit in the spring. We prefer pelletized compost. All the benefits of compost and none of the smell!
- \* Fall is the prime season for lawn renovations. Aeration, overseeding and fertilization should all be completed this month. We like to apply compost to our lawns also. You can even expect to see grass growing this season because of the high quality grass seed we use in our lawn care program.

## Why Aeration Works

Kids playing ball. Sitting on the lawn in the evening. And carrying packages back and forth from the car to the house. All of this foot traffic may compact the soil in your lawn.

Clay based soil is a fact of life here on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Clay based soil is much more likely to become compacted than other types of dirt.

Aeration relieves compaction of the soil. This process allows much needed nutrients to get to the root zone of your grass more quickly. Larger properties are aerated with a tractor attachment. It's known as a core aerator. Smaller areas and tight spaces are pushed off by hand.

Core aeration will leave a "plug" of soil on the surface. The lawn will actually look like it's been plowed.

These plugs are about 1/2 inch in diameter. They are around three inches long. Plugs break down in 1-2 weeks and disappear back into the ground.

Aerating a lawn is known as a basic cultural practice. Aeration is probably the single most important element in our natural/organic lawn care program. It can do the most good for your lawn.

This process allows more space in the soil for air and water to reach the root system of the lawn. Your fertilizer and grass seed will reach the root area more quickly.

Aeration also increases drainage capabilities in the lawn. If your lawn has drainage issues, this can help. Water won't be left lying on top of the grass. Your yard won't feel like granite under your feet next summer.

There are lots of good arguments for aeration. It's a fairly low tech solution for a problem that plagues many lawns in this area. Please give us a call and we'll be happy to meet with you.

## **A Little Bit About Our Grass Seed**

Although most people plant grass seed in the spring, any landscaper will tell you that fall is the very best time to seed or overseed.

Overseeding is the process of adding grass seed to existing turf. We recommend that it be completed once a year, until a thick turf is established.

There are several reasons why we seed in the fall. Days are growing shorter and the nights are cooler. It's easier to keep new grass moist. Also, think about weeds. In the spring, annual weeds are poised to sprout. Everything we do to promote grass growth, also promotes weed growth.

Our grass seed is mostly tall fescue. We use three different types of fescue. In case anything is wrong with one type of seed, such as blight, the other types will germinate and you will have a green lawn. There is no possibility of failure this way.

Additionally, our grass seed is endophyte enhanced. This means that the seed has been bred to taste bad to surface feeding insects, such as sod webworms and chinch bugs. The use of these grasses will reduce the chance of insect and fungus problems. We choose to only use endophyte enhanced grasses.

## Website News

Did you see the new pictures on our website? We have lots of new photographs of our work. There are also photos of brand new designs that our landscape designer, Dave Lee, drew for several clients. Go to [dellsadler.com](http://dellsadler.com) and click on Photo Gallery.

Remember, if you have a landscaping question, you can always email it to us at our website. We'll do our best to provide you with an answer promptly. We love to discuss landscaping and gardening. The truth is that when we research a problem for you, we always learn even more.

## More Website News

We're adding a new feature to our website. You may remember that I'm an amateur chef. I love to develop new recipes and frequently use family and friends as guinea pigs. Even my staff isn't safe. I'm constantly creating new dishes and urging them to critique my efforts. They never knew that taste-testing was a job requirement when they signed on here.

Now that the staff has become immune, I'd like to share my recipes with you. Each week, I'll post a new offering on the website. I've developed recipes in many different categories. I hope you'll consider trying one someday. And, please give me feedback. I'm open to criticism and will welcome your responses. I'm still in the development stage. Maybe I'll write a cookbook.

Thanks for reading the recipes. Bon appetit!