



2222 Valwood Parkway
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Popular Annual Color Choices for Summer

Caladiums



Lantana

Zinnia

Sweet Potatoe Vine

Angelonia



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Precision Landscape Management

Summer 2009 Newsletter

Weed Control in Turf

Weeds are often the number one pest problem in turf. They are aggressive competitors for sunlight, moisture and nutrients and reproduce quickly even under adverse conditions. Weeds present a challenge for even the most experienced turfgrass managers as well as the average homeowner.

In lawns and commercial turf, weeds are often the result of poor quality turf, rather than the cause of poor turf. The aggressive nature of weeds and their prolific reproductive capacity enable them to invade thin, weak turf areas. Cultural practices should always be viewed as the first step to effective weed control. Al-

ways determine why weeds established a foothold and correct those deficiencies. If the basic problem is not corrected, weeds will continue to occur.

An effective weed control program also requires identification of the undesirable species as to its classification as a grassy weed, a broadleaf weed, an annual or a perennial. Most turf weeds belong to two principal categories - grasses and broadleaf plants. Chemical controls for these two categories of plants frequently differ which makes proper identification a very important step in managing weeds.

When selecting a herbicide for chemical control make sure the label is carefully reviewed to make sure you are selecting the right product, and for additional details on specific uses of each product. The degree of control will depend upon the herbicide rate, application timing, amount and timing of rainfall or irrigation, soil type and infestation levels of the various weeds.

Following these tips will lead you in the right direction for managing weeds in turf grasses and help promote a stronger healthier turf.

Semi Regular Tree Pruning

Recent, stormy winds have left a long lasting effect on many trees throughout the Metroplex. Many trees that had been pruned recently were able to escape damage from the storms. Nature is not very selective when pruning trees naturally. Contact your Landscape Consultant with regards to any Tree Prune recommendations. Annual Tree Pruning has several major benefits, most of which influence the health

of the tree. Selective pruning removes structurally inadequate branches, and substantially thins out the canopy. The thinner canopy allows for better air circulation, and less wind resistance. When a tree has not been trimmed, the wind resistance is much greater and the trees are more likely to either blow over or break. The same is also true for trees in preparation for winter.

We never know when we might experience an ice storm, but trees that have been properly pruned are more likely to withstand dam-



Plant Highlight—Stromanthe sanguinea



We are always on the watch for 'new' or different plants and flowers to spice up the color beds especially if they are in a shady area. Stromanthe sanguinea 'Tricolor' sports dramatic powerful colors, it has eye-catching glossy leaves with color on both sides of the leaves. Leaves are brilliant magenta ..tops are white and green with the magenta showing through. Tricolor grows to about 2 feet tall, leaves range 12-20 inches long and about 4 inches wide. Such foliage makes a strong color statement. Outdoors in zones 8-10 provide shade or some morning sun and don't let soil get dry ...that's it for

Seasonal Spotlight - Buffalo Grass

Buffalograss (*Buchloë dactyloides*) is the only grass native to North America that is used widely for turf. Fossils discovered in Kansas show that buffalograss existed in that region at least 7 million years ago. It was the principal forage grass for the American bison, hence the name. Buffalograss is well adapted to the drylands of the western prairies and plains, and in recent years new varieties have been developed to extend its natural area of adaptation.

When buffalograss is planted in high rainfall areas or when it is irrigated and fertilized, bermudagrass and other weedy grasses invade a stand of buffalograss. Buffalograss is best adapted to low rainfall areas (15 to 30 inches annually) or areas that receive thorough, but infrequent irrigation.

Buffalograss is not adapted to shaded sites or to sites that receive heavy traffic. Also, under intensive management bermudagrass and other more aggressive grasses tend to replace buffalograss in the lawn. Buffalograss is only recommended for low maintenance, low use turfgrass areas. It does not persist where use is intensive. Consequently, only minimum maintenance practices are required to keep a buffalograss turf.

Mowing height and frequency depend on the use of the site. In lawns, buffalograss can be mowed at heights of 2 to 3 inches. At the shorter heights weekly mowing may be required to keep a buffalograss turf.

Summer Insects

PROBLEM: The crapemyrtle aphid, is the most important insect pest in the mid and lower South. Crapemyrtle aphid is host specific to crape myrtle so it does not feed on any other plants. These aphids reach high populations during mid summer. A shiny or sticky substance may coat the leaves. A black, sooty mold often grows on the sticky substance. Damage occurs when the aphid sucks the juices

from the plant. Sap removal often results in scorched, discolored, or curled leaves and reduced plant growth. A severe infestation may cause branches to die.

SOLUTION: Applying a systemic insecticide works best. A systemic product will be translocated upward within the plant system and generally gives the plant 8-12 of protection. Appli-

cations should be made prior to anticipated pest infestation to achieve optimum levels of control.



Recipe Corner - Chili-Lime Grilled Corn

Prep: 15 min., Stand: 1 hr., Grill: 25 min.
Soak corn husks in a cooler of water before grilling to prevent the husks from burning. After grilling, drain water, and put corn back into cooler for up to 20 minutes to keep warm until ready to serve.

Ingredients

8 ears fresh corn with husks
1/2 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon grated lime rind
1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
Chili powder

Preparation

1. Remove heavy outer husks from corn; pull back inner husks. Remove and discard silks. Pull husks over corn. Cover corn with water; let stand 1 hour.
2. Stir together 1/2 cup softened butter, 1 tsp. grated lime rind, and 1 tsp. lime juice.
3. Drain corn, and pat dry.
4. Grill corn, without grill lid, over medium heat (300° to 350°) 25 minutes or until tender, turning often. Remove corn from grill. Carefully pull back husks, and tie with a leftover husk or kitchen string. Spread with desired amount of butter mixture. Sprinkle corn evenly with desired amount of chili powder.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The City of North Richland Hills recognized Rufe Snow Village with the Business Landscape of the Month Award for June.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES
Federico Aguilera
Dan Bollin
Darrell Mullins

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES
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Pascacio Olvera
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