

# The Green Resource

Volume 3, Issue 7

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## Spare The Water, Unspoil The Plant!

The Real Truth About Your Plants and Their Relationship to Your Sprinkler System.

### Services We Are Performing For You This Month

- Trim Crapemyrtles
- Trim Azaleas
- Trim Hollies
- Trim Ornamental Trees
- Trim Yews
- Trim Hydrangeas
- Trim Perennial Blooms
- Trim Spiraeas
- Trim Otto Luyken Laurel
  
- Weed Control In Shrub Beds
- Spray For Lacebugs On Azaleas
- Check Sprinkler Systems and Set Timers
- Mulch Shrub Beds
- Transplant Shrubs
- Install New Landscapes
  
- Mow, Edge and Trim
- Fertilize All Turf Areas
  
- Inspect Plants For Insects
- Superthrive Treatment For Plants With Stress
- Annual Color Supplemental Foliar Fertilization
  
- Enjoy The Heat!
- Catch Some Rays!

Do you want to have the best looking landscape plants possible? Would you be willing to “spend less” to get more from your plants? I am going to tell you a little known fact that will help you have the best plants every day of the year. What am I talking about?

In the most recent weeks I have been digging in some of your shrub beds and I am shocked at what I am finding just under the surface of the soil. I found masses of tangled roots that are only 3-4 inches deep when they should be 12-24 inches deep!

**YOUR PLANTS NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS ISSUE! We want to work together to Prevent Spoiled Plants!**

**Let me tell you the truth right now!**

**99% of the year, your shrub beds should be watered once or twice per week. Watering your plants every day with the sprinkler system will cause them to develop shallow roots. Shallow roots are NOT good.**

Shallow rooted plants cannot tap into reserves of soil moisture that lie more deeply in the soil. These plants become more dependent upon your sprinkler system for moisture. Moreover, the plants with shallow root systems are susceptible to winter kill and damage from cold soil and air temperatures. Watering too often makes plants weak and more susceptible to injury from insects or diseases. Shallow roots also mean fewer roots for recovery from stress. Over time, one stress piled on top of another spells death for your plants.

**Think of the soil as a bank to securely hold moisture until the plants can withdraw it as needed. The only way to fill this bank is by proper watering!**

The plants in your shrub beds need watering, but not every day. Plants can withstand the normal stresses placed upon them by cold, heat,



Perfect rainfall without sprinklers would be nice.

insects and disease much better if they aren't stressed by over watering. **Overwatering is often called “loving your plants to death.”**

It is true that plants fare much better when “trained” to dig deep in the soil for their moisture and nutrients. You can train them by denying them water for a few days per week, and then watering deeply on those days that you do water. **A tip for properties with too much run off. Water your shrub beds twice in the same day to allow the water to penetrate deeply and to build up the “moisture bank” for your plants.**

**HAPPY GARDENING AND WATERING!!**

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*Pressing On Towards Excellence!*

### CALL US FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEM SETUP AND SYSTEM CHECKS

**Is your sprinkler system running properly?  
Do you think that your system may be running everyday or just want us to check it for you?**

If you would like us to check your sprinkler system now before the really dry and hot weather starts (it started last week, ok), then call us right away to get on the schedule to have your system properly checked and the timer set.

If this service call is on your contract, there is no need to call unless you have noticed a problem with your system or if you have dry plants.

## Fertilizing Lawns, Shrubs And Flowers

**The popular media is not only popular, it's powerful!**

What we see on television in advertisements is often misleading and lately downright false. We get the wrong impression from advertisers that tout "miracle" type growing solutions to spray on your plants with a hose or with a sprinkling can. They tell you to just add this fertilizer and you will have beautiful flowers, shrubs and lawns by using their product. I say "hogwash!"

Please don't get me wrong, these fertilizers that are mixed with water are very good and I have used them for years. But what we fail to understand from the advertising is that **these products must be used every two weeks (all through the growing season) to get the performance you want; costing more than is realized.** When inquiring about a plant that is looking poorly, I will ask the owner what their fertilizing practice has been. Often they say that they have fertilized regularly, but after more in-depth questioning, I find that they have used one of these instant fertilizers with the understanding that one or two applications was all that was necessary for a plant's good health. I must say that it is not!

This is why we use **Timed Release Fertilizers** that will allow your plants to **feed on available nutrients as needed all season long.** Coupled with balanced fertilizers are the micro-nutrients that are very important to the continued health of your plants. Supplement our fertilizing with these instant fertilizers if you want, but depend on Greenkeeper's to make sure your plants receive the proper balanced nutrition they need for long healthy life.

### Over Easy

## Dandelion coffee, anyone?

It was only a matter of time before someone actually found something beneficial about the dandelion, the common lawn weed that is a thorn in the side of most of us in the lawn care business and millions of homeowners each spring.

In actuality, some herbalists in central Pennsylvania love dandelions, according to an article in the *Centre Daily Times*.

Jennifer Tucker of Harris Township collects a variety of edible weeds from her farm each spring, the article noted. Tucker extols the virtues of dandelions, which contain vitamins C, B, E; calcium,

potassium, zinc, iron and protein. According to reporter Chris Rosenblum, Tucker blanches the leaves, stir-fries the weeds in olive oil and garlic, and sprinklers in some bacon.

Rosenblum also found Anne Marie Wishard, owner of Sweet Annie's

Herbs stores, a dandelion-lover. Wishard has a recipe for dandelion-root, coffee that includes roasted burdock root, chicory and ground cinnamon.

"The dandelion root helps the liver, blood, spleen and pancreas," Wishard told the *Times*: "The coffee is better than a soup for

you when you're done with it."

The same article also noted people who "creatively" harvest and eat woodsorrel, purslane, and nettle. What it didn't say is that they would all probably disdain a juicy Big Mac with a side order of fries, further lending credence to the not so old saying: "Different strokes for different folks."

This author remembers the days when preparing to live off the land included information like this and reading books by the likes of Euel Gibbons who could find food anywhere. We used to joke that Mr. Gibbons would say, "You know, some parts of old tires are still edible." Of course he didn't actually say that, but you get the point.

