



“Curb Appeal”

It's Grow Time - Fall is for Planting

Well, it's hard to believe another Summer has come and almost gone and that Fall is fast approaching. I have been in the office today catching up on things and watching the rain fall and wondering - when was the last rainy day we had this Summer? There haven't been many and that, coupled with the extreme heat of late June and most of July, has taken its toll again on our yards, our gardens, and us. But not to despair, Fall is right around the corner and with that the opportunity to repair the damage done by the Summer weather. Fall, simply put, is for planting. The warm days and cool nights present ideal conditions for restoring our yards to their springtime glory. So let's start making our list of

things to do in the yard this Fall:

- Add new landscaping or renovate an existing area
- Aerate and over-seed the lawn (de-thatch if necessary)
- Move existing shrubs and trees if needed
- Divide/split perennials
- Plant a fall vegetable garden
- Take advantage of the late summer bounty of fruits and vegetables for canning or freezing

This seems to be a good start but as always; the clock is ticking! Remember, the Autumnal Equinox is almost upon us. It starts

on September 22 @ 10:49 a.m.



Comments and Questions

Please send to:

tim@thecottagegardener.net

Or

Thru our website @
www.thecottagegardener.net

“contact form”

Or

C/O Tim McCaffrey

1237 Lorraine Ave

Richmond, VA 23227

Guess What? We're Turning Five

On September 10 The Cottage Gardener will start our 5th season of business. Like the proud father of any child I am very excited about the upcoming birthday. I have built this enterprise from the ground-up with lots of blood, sweat, tears, toil, treasure, ingenuity, mistakes, desire, passion, more mistakes and belief in one's self. My story is not unique unto its

self but it is uniquely an American story, repeated time and time again. An entrepreneurial spirit that has driven this country since day one producing the likes of Thomas Edison, Cyrus McCormick, Eli Whitney, Henry Ford, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. One more thing to say about building a business - you need customers. So to all the folks who have

given us the opportunity to work for them over the past five seasons - thank you and God bless each and everyone of you. And remember, “Success is not final, and failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts”

p.s - this quote could have something to do with the trivia question

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Trivia Contest

In war: resolution. In defeat: defiance. In victory: magnanimity. In peace: goodwill

What great person of history said this?

First three correct answers get a \$25 OUV G.C

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"Curb Appeal by The Cottage Gardener"

On the web@

www.thecottagegardener.net

Curb Appeal Tip

"Add the Color- Part Fall"

Back in the Spring edition of "Curb Appeal" we talked about adding color to re-vamp your landscaping without breaking your budget. Well, Fall offers the same opportunity to re-fresh, just like Spring.

If not already, very soon the area nurseries and garden centers will be bringing in pansies, mums, ornamental cabbage and kale. Blend these in with what is left of your Spring and Summer annuals and your good to go.

So "Add the Color" again and watch your landscaping come back to life.

Fall Coupon

**Buy One Tree get a second tree
for 25% off**

Offer good thru 10/15/12

Ask The Gardener

I get questions all the time from folks concerning a wide range of topics related to their yards but I also get a lot of others as well - so let's cover some of the others in this edition because they pertain to local businesses.

Who does your T-Shirts?

The nice folks at Rich's Stitches located at 4013 MacArthur Ave in the heart of Bellevue. Chris Rich and her sister Cecilia do a great job. Stop by and see them, they do all kinds of stuff from t-shirts to embroidery and special items as well - their number is 262-3477.

Who is your insurance agent?

I use Winters-Oliver based in Mechanicsville at 8022 Mechanicsville Turnpike. My agent is Ben Winters who happens to live in Ginter Park. Give Ben a call at 746-5178 to see how he can help you out with insurance needs

Where do you buy old and vintage items for different projects?

I love Paul's Place at 1009 Overbrook Road. Another local business with some really cool stuff from antiques to retro is a must see. We recently purchased 1830's vintage wrought iron fencing for a project on West Laburnum. Go by or give them a call at 228-9999.

Have a question you would like answered??? Send it to us!

Harvest Time!

The great thing about this time of year for foodies is the bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables that are overflowing at local grocery stores, farmer's markets and roadside stands. It's a great time to eat fresh and local produce. One of my favorite and easy recipes is tomato bread salad using locally or home-grown tomatoes.

Here's the recipe:

1-2 lbs. of assorted fresh tomatoes

1 red onion

1 loaf crusty Italian bread

1 cup assorted olives

1/2 cup capers

Olive oil, balsamic vinegar, red wine vinegar, salt and pepper, parsley

Tear bread into rough large and medium size pieces toss with olive oil and toast in the oven for about 5 minutes - set aside. Cut-up tomatoes and red onion and mix together in a large bowl. Add in capers and olives and stir. Now add toasted bread, olive oil, vinegars, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and let sit for about 30 minutes - garnish with parsley if you like.

In the Yard.....

In our last edition we talked about how to properly cut a "tall fescue" lawn. Now it's time to talk about how to properly care for your "tall fescue" lawn this Fall. The first thing you want to do around mid-September is to core aerate the lawn. This can be achieved by hiring a company like us to do it or by renting an aerator from a company like Rental Works on Broad Street. Or some folks might even have a pull behind unit they use with their lawn tractor. Prior to the actual aeration, make sure the lawn is soft enough for the aerator to pull up 3-4" plugs with each pass. Nothing is worse than trying to aerate a rock hard yard; in fact, it is useless and a waste of money. Also, make sure you cut the lawn fairly short so that you can allow the new grass seed to become established before it needs cutting again. After you have successfully aerated, now it is time to overseed with a quality Turf-type, Tall Fescue blend available at your local garden center like Azalea Garden Center or any Home Depot, Lowes, Southern States etc. After the seeding is completed, apply a starter fertilizer and put down pelletized lime. Step one is complete, now just keep the lawn nice and wet for the next 10-12 days to allow the new seed to germinate properly. Steps two and three are fertilizer and lime applications together, about 30 days apart to feed the new and existing grass and to allow it to store energy for its Winter nap. For more info on growing grass properly go to the Virginia Cooperative Extension - Virginia Tech @www.ext.vt.edu or give a call.

Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions you might have.