



SPRING 2013

Green Words

THE NEWSLETTER OF TREE • TURF • GARDEN • LAND • FOREST



*Go outside.
outside now.*

*You're going
It's time to go*

*outside. Outside is where you belong.
Isn't it time for you to go outside?*

For my entire childhood I heard these phrases spoken from my mother's lips, sometimes with irritation when my brother and I had been underfoot in the kitchen for too long. It didn't matter what the weather was doing—we'd bundle into whatever gear was needed, at this time of year, rubber boots, wool sweaters and raincoats—and she'd kiss the tops of our heads and send us on our way saying, "don't come back until I call you."

I think about this often these days, particularly when the stress of modern life has me living too much in my head and I feel overwhelmed by my task list and overflowing inbox. All kinds of new research shows that spending daily time outdoors has the capacity to heal a variety of negative human conditions, and most notably for me, provides an antidote to my endless technology overload. My mother was right, once again.

So...I'm going outside now...and I'll be back when somebody calls me.

—Mundy Wilson

INVESTING IN YOUR LAWN & LANDSCAPE

The Value of Green



by **Theron Peck** *Turf, Plant Health Care & Landscape Manager*

IT MAY COME AS NO SURPRISE that improving the green space around your home is not only aesthetically and emotionally pleasing, but a wise financial investment. According to recent survey of realtors (Homegain.com), ninety-three percent of real estate agents recommend landscaping as a 'top five home improvement' with a \$540 investment yielding a \$1,932 price increase on home value, equating to a 258% return on investment. Wow! A healthy lawn and landscape not only improves property value but also traps pollutants, prevents harmful runoff, increases air quality, and adds functional value for leisure activities.

*Spring is nature's
way of saying,
"Let's Party!"*

—ROBIN WILLIAMS

2012 brought record heat and drought to the entire country causing significant plant damage due to lack of water and surges in harmful insect populations. As the spring of 2013 unfolds, you may be wondering about your options as a homeowner as it relates to replacing, improving, or reviving your own lawn as an investment in your home value.

An excellent first step is scheduling a professional onsite evaluation to determine the current health and state of your lawn or landscape (we offer complimentary estimates). Once problems are recognized, options can be explored, including any necessary renovation, seeding, fertilization, insect or weed control. While one homeowner may favor a lush green lawn, another may prefer healthy shrubs or ornamental trees, or possibly both! You decide what's important to you.

The way to make a healthier lawn is through a series of timely, well-applied natural treatments over the growing season. These treatments typically include fertilizer, lime, aeration, over-seeding, and any necessary insect or weed treatments. Ticks, for example, can be controlled very well with sprays during the year, especially in the spring and fall. The same goes for most broadleaf weeds: control is achieved slowly by reducing the population during active growth, typically in the spring and fall.

Due to last year's heat and drought we expect insect problems like grubs to continue this spring and summer. We do not recommend buying milky spore to control grubs in NH or VT—it only targets Japanese beetles and

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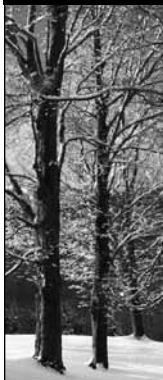
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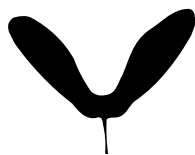


Let our tree experts install and maintain a pipeline system in your sugarbush.

Contact us for information about a tap lease program for 2014.

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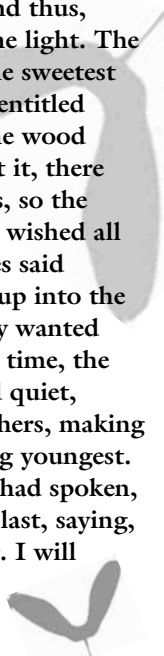
We also buy sap!



The Secret of the Seed

Once, all the different parts of a tree were in a terrible argument over who had claim to own what. The root said, it was oldest, and so claimed all the ground. The trunk said, it was broadest, and thus, claimed most of the light. The fruit said it was the sweetest part, and thereby entitled to man's favor. The wood explained, without it, there would be no boats, so the lumber of the tree wished all the seas. The leaves said they had to reach up into the air highest, so they wanted the sky. All of this time, the seed had remained quiet, listening to the others, making no comment, being youngest. Finally, after each had spoken, The seed spoke at last, saying, "I ask for nothing. I will take the future."

—Dennis Saleh



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our climate makes it ineffective against these insects. There are new natural materials on the market that provide safe, excellent control of grubs plus other harmful insects. Spend your money wisely on treatments that actually provide a real benefit!

PROVEN METHODS LEAD TO POSITIVE RESULTS

Chippers' professional turf care program combines proven methods and best practices while exploring and utilizing new technologies and products. Great care and awareness must be taken throughout the growing season as it relates to waterways, slopes, children, and family pets. Our responsible approach to improving your lawn encompasses a wide array of unique products and methods of delivery not found elsewhere.

For example, compost tea, combined with high calcium lime, aeration, and over-seeding, provides an excellent organic solution for lawn improvement. Since our compost tea contains no fertilizer or pesticides, it can be sprayed right up to the water line, ideal for those who have lawns abutting lakes, ponds, or rivers. Since all states have strict laws and legislation governing the use of pesticides and even fertilizers close to water, compost tea and other organic treatments make a responsible and professional alternative to those who have lake front homes. We are the first green care company in NH and VT to provide this type of waterfront lawn service.

Chippers introduced the Essential Turf Care division in 2008 and we can hardly believe what a success it has become, surpassing all of our expectations. To those who are current clients, we extend a big "thank you" for entrusting us with your investment, your lawn. To those who have yet to sample the grassy choices we offer, I look forward to your call or e-mail.


[For all lawn-related questions, please contact Mr. Grass via email: turf@chippersinc.com, or by phone 866.683.6222. Visit mrgrassblog.net]



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is provided free of charge to anyone who loves plants. If you know someone who might enjoy this publication, have them call us at 866.683.6222. Current and past issues are available at our website.

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ASK THE ARBORIST: *Customer Forum*



Q: Can vines be a problem for trees?

I'd like to plant an hydrangea vine on an oak near my house.

Certain vines that become woody over time, circling and clinging tightly to the tree trunk, can actually girdle the tree. I have seen bittersweet do this on numerous trees. Another consideration is if/when the foliage from the vine competes for space with the foliage of the tree. This can be dealt with simply by pruning (shortening) the vine height annually to keep it out of the crown. I'd give it a try as long as you keep these considerations in mind.

Q: I heard you make an analogy comparing trees to bank accounts—would you elaborate?

I'd need more room than this forum allows, but here's a quick summary. All of the energy stored in the tree's systems is like the money in your bank account. This amount of "money" increases during the process of photosynthesis. Withdrawals are made at different times of the year such as spring, when the leaves emerge, resulting in a sustainable system that keeps extra money (energy) available for emergencies. Good years can be seen in the tree's growth when it has all its needs met, such as ample nutrients like water and lots of sunlight. A tree 'emergency' may be a defoliating insect that requires a large withdrawal to re-foliate the tree using secondary buds. Damage to the tree's root system, soil compaction, drought, herbicide damage, improper pruning all can cause unexpected withdrawals. When withdrawals outnumber deposits, the tree is in trouble! Luckily, Chippers has bailout plans!

Q: Are you against all non-native trees?

No, not really. Native plants (trees included) have the distinct advantage of having had thousands of years to adapt to their environment. Unfortunately, non-native insects and disease can often find our native species quite delicious, with the added advantage of not having their home predators here to keep them in check. This is currently the problem we're having with Emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle and Hemlock wooly adelgid—to name just a few. Diversifying your landscape minimizes the overall damage that may occur and using non-native plant species makes this much easier. However, be very careful to avoid known invasives such as Norway maple, burning bush and barberry. These species live by a different set of rules and can take over large areas, pushing out many native species in their path. For a list of VT invasive species: vtinvasives.org, and for NH invasive species: agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant_industry/invasive-species.htm.

Q: I had cables installed many years ago in my trees—can I consider them permanent?

Cables have a useful life of approximately five years. For fast growing species such as Silver maple that could be as little as three years. Properly installed cables support the weak attachment point of the tree at a height of two-thirds the distance from the attachment point and the total height of the tree (or in some cases leader length). This gives the support system ample mechanical advantage to meet the goals of the arborist's installation. Given enough time this mechanical advantage ratio decreases as the tree grows and a new support system may be necessary. At the very least, have the cabling systems in your trees inspected every three to five years.

[Please email your tree related questions to Cal: askthearborist@chippersinc.com]

MEET A CHIPPER



Monica Collise is our in-house landscape/garden designer and greenhouse manager. She earned a BS in Environmental Science with a concentration in Geology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, choosing her field of study based on her positive experience growing up in a family greenhouse business. "I knew I could have a 'real' job and have fun too if I chose a profession that included plants." At her family's commercial greenhouse in Boscawen, NH, founded by her great-grandfather, she learned important life skills and designed a landscape program that contributed to the success of the business.

The former greenhouse manager for Twin Farms in Barnard, VT, grew up with an all natural approach to horticulture and gardening, and instituted a companion planting program during her tenure at the five star resort. She worked closely with the chef to coordinate for seasonality, color and taste. "I was proud to know there was always something on the menu from the greenhouse, even in the dead of winter."

When Monica is not working with plants, or with people who love them, she has other varied hobbies. She and her husband David love to hike, and they also often volunteer together at several Silver Lake State Parks, re-landscaping gardens and teaching nature programs about planting or fishing. Last year Monica completed the Warrior Dash at Gunstock Mountain and this year she and David plan to participate in the Tough Mudder at Stowe Mountain. We welcome Monica aboard the Chippers' team!



SPRING/SUMMER

Check List

- Contact Chippers to receive all communications electronically: jill@chippersinc.com
- Visit local home & garden shows
- Order next year's firewood
- Call for a free estimate for Natural Turf and/or Plant Health Care
- Plan to protect trees from any pending construction
- Have trees inspected
- Remove protective mulch
- Turn over gardens and add compost
- Sharpen mower blades
- Fertilize trees, lawns & gardens
- Divide summer & fall blooming perennials
- Be on the watch for tent caterpillar webs
- Mow lawns 3" high & leave clippings— call for our free mowing height gauge



SERIOUSLY. STOP THAT.

Mulch volcanoes kill trees!



BB

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—ANNE BRADSTREET (1612-1672)



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We're All About Your Life Outside