



Alpha Nursery & Garden Center Newsletter

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Insects and Disease—What Should I be Looking For?

With summer upon us, there are new pests and diseases that will be showing up to attack our flowers, garden, shrubs, and trees. Usually we don't notice them until we notice that something is wrong. Here are some things to keep an eye out for to help you diagnose and treat before it becomes a real problem. Part III

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Woolly Adelgids

Western Gall Rust

Orange Rust

Woolly Adelgids are a type of an aphid. They are not native to the US and originally came from Asia. They look a lot like the flocking that is sprayed on christmas trees. That is where they derive their name is they have a woolly appearance. They will suck the sap out of trees and will eventually kill the tree. Treat by injection or by applying a systemic drench that contains Imidacloprid. The drench is available at the nursery and tree injections are available from our Landscape division by appointment.

Western Gall Rust is a fungus that attack mostly pines in our area. It spreads by spores and will cause a gall or swelling in limbs or the main trunk of a tree. If these are present in you trees, it is best to cut off the limb before the affected area. Burn the branches. If you don't have a burn area, cut out the gall and place in plastic bags and take to the dump. If the gall is in the main stem unfortunately there is no treatment and the tree must be cut down. If left, the gall can produce spores and infect more trees and the tree will always be weak in that section of trunk and may break and blow down in a storm.

Orange Rust is another type of a fungus. It will mainly show up on shrubs and trees. It is most evident on the bottom side of the leaves but the upper sides of the leaves may show some spots or a discoloration of the leaf to a pale green. Orange Rust is most effectively treated by a fungicidal systemic spray, drench, or tree injections are available from our Landscape division by appointment.

What's Happening?

Every Wednesday (except 4th of July) we have a booth at the Donnelly Farmer's Market. Come see us from 3:30 to 6:30.

Our All Organic Garden in the High Tunnel has fresh veggies daily.

The Farmer's Market will begin on July 11th with Volcanic Farms from 10AM to 2PM every Wednesday and the 3rd week of July, Natures Table Farm will be here on Saturday from 3PM to 5PM.



Can you spot the Bumble Bee in one of the pictures?

Your Monthly Checklist

What should you be doing this month?

This is a checklist of items that may or may not pertain to you or what you do in your yard or garden. It is meant as a guide to help you be better prepared for this month and next.

- Do a check on your sprinkler times as you may have to increase the duration and frequency of watering with the temperatures rising. Make sure you are watering either in the morning or the late evening. Watering during the heat of the day can damage grass and plants.
- Start checking for signs of insect damage, especially borers, pine beetles, pine and spruce tip weevils, and aphids. (See last month's article). Spruce Bud Worm, Woolly Adelgids, Scale and mold diseases.
- Be sure to plant your succession crops of radishes, lettuce, spinach, etc.
- Always Keep an eye out for frost, Sign up for this newsletter and receive Frost Alerts when they occur. Get your frost protection items ready—check your frost cloth and covers for tears or wear and replace or repair if needed.
- Spray or treat your yard, driveway, and beds for weeds. They will be growing regularly now. Set up on a every two week schedule to keep them under control.
- Give your plants an early summer fertilizing, especially your garden as many of the vegetables are heavy feeders. Don't forget to fertilize your hanging baskets and planters!

Notable Quotes

"The secret of landscapes isn't creation...It's maintenance" Michael Dolan

"If you are not killing plants, you are not really stretching yourself as a gardener"
J.C. Raulston

"Plants are like people: they're all different and a little bit strange." John Kehoe

"Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow" Author Unknown

"All the Flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today." Indian Proverb

*"When all the chores are done, the avid gardener will invent some new ones," Au-
thor Unknown*

"Gardening is a humbling experience. Martha Stewart

Snip & Sip—A New Way to Enjoy Edible Flowers



From herbal teas to flower flavored liqueurs you can add some interesting and flavorful treats and give yourself some time to smell the roses (literally).

A big pitcher of water gets the spa treatment when you add a handful of bright, edible flowers.

Combine 3 cups water or club soda with 1 cup of pesticide-free, marigolds, roses, pansies, nasturtiums, or herbs. The flower/herb water can be chilled up to 2 days; if kept cold, club soda's fizz will last 3-4 hours.

Sip the flavored water and enjoy the flavor. Experiment with different combinations of edible flowers and herbs to find your favorite sipping flavored water.

The Importance of Mulching

Mulching your newly planted trees, shrubs, and planting beds has many benefits for your plantings.

- Provides cooler temperatures to your plants roots protecting them from the hotter temperatures during the summer months.
- Acts as a buffer to your plants roots during the colder winter months providing more consistent temperatures compared to quick temperature fluctuations of our winter weather.
- Weeds are reduced considerable and any weeds that do appear are easier to pull out.
- During the hotter months, mulch helps to retain moisture in the soil.
- Mulching around trees or shrubs in lawns helps to prevent mower damage.
- Mulching helps to prevent soil compaction.
- Mulch looks good and adds to the aesthetic appearance of your yard.

A newly planted tree or shrub can greatly benefit from mulching reducing stress to the tree or shrub; reducing weeds, retaining moisture, and protecting the tree in general.

A tip is to install Landscape Cloth under your mulch. Cloth will reduce weeds by up to 95% in those areas that you can install cloth.

There are several choices when it comes to mulch. You can install Bark Chips: Large or Small, Regular Bark, Dyed Red or Brown Bark Mulch, Cedar Mulch (also helps to repel insects and spiders), Soil Aid which has a finer texture, or Rock: Red Lava Pebbles, Red Lava Nuggets, Gold Lava Nuggets, Rock Bark, Pea Gravel, River Rock, Drain Rock, or Permabark. The choice of what mulch you use is according to your taste, what you like, and the look that you are striving for.

When applying mulch, install to a depth of approximately 3" deep. When you are mulching around plants, trees, or shrubs, do not mound the mulch up around the plant as this can rot the stem around the plant. Taper the mulch down as you come close to the stem or trunk of the plant. You will want the mulch to be about 1/4" deep next to the stem or the trunk.

The mulch over time will break down so you will want to refresh the mulch at least every 2 years to keep that 3" depth. In the case of the Bark Mulches, the sun will work on fading the mulch and graying it out over time. You can keep the mulch looking fresh by applying a light dusting of mulch over the top or turning the mulch over to freshen it up.

There is also a new product called Envirocolor which we carry at the nursery. It is a dye that you can spray on sun bleached mulch to bring back the color of fresh mulch. Follow this link to check it out. <https://www.envirocolor.com/instructions/>

So, Mulch your plantings, they will love you for it!

Did you Know? Trees Lower Summer Temperatures

- Shade provided from large trees and cooling from evapotranspiration (water vapor released from the trees) can reduce surrounding air temperatures by as much as 9 degrees F.
- Locations under trees can benefit from cooling as much as 25 degrees or more than surrounding open areas. .

By placing 3 well placed trees you could lower your yearly cooling bill by \$100-\$250.00 per year?

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Nature's Rx For Mental Wellness

In today's world, it is almost impossible to escape the realities of social media, instant news, 24/7 connectivity and the mental exhaustion that follows.

The rising trend of wellness isn't just about keeping the body healthy anymore; it's about keeping the mind and spirit healthy, too.

In today's 24/7 connected society and public discontent, depression, and anxiety are skyrocketing worldwide. By 2030, the World Health Organization predicts anxiety will be the #1 health issue, outranking obesity.

And Gen-Y is the most stressed and anxious to date. According to YPulse, 81% of 13-34 year olds are making mental health a #1 priority and want new ways to balance physical and mental wellness—and clear their heads.

Thanks to celebrities such as the British Royals, mental health is no longer a stigma. Prince Harry believes there has been a “dial shift” in prioritizing mental wellness, urging young people who are constantly checking their phone to slow down and process their thoughts rather than rushing from one thing to the next.

The new study of neuro-conservation from Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, an evolutionary ecologist and research associate at the California Academy of Sciences, says being in nature and around water shifts our brain towards hope and compassion and away from stress and anger.

In other words, take time to stop and smell the roses.

Excerpts by Garden Media Group's 17th annual Garden Trends Report for 2018



Do you have any suggestions, comments, or would like to see a specific article or information in an upcoming newsletter? Please email your requests or comments to Sue Wisbey. Email address is alphanursery@hotmail.com.