



Dream Landscapes, One Garden At A Time

SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE

HOW GREEN IS YOUR LANDSCAPE? By Alison Pottage ISA Certified Arborist

Healthy landscapes afford us so many benefits for our social, physical and emotional well-being. A well designed and maintained lawn and landscape enhances the curb appeal of a home, controls pollution, reduces soil erosion, purifies and replenishes our water and adds oxygen to the air.

So how do you balance your landscape needs with the results you desire, while still protecting the environment? Care methods include a completely organic program, a phased-in hybrid approach or a traditional or integrated method. A skilled arborist has an intimate knowledge of ecosystems and can help enhance the natural health and beauty of trees, shrubs and turf by reviewing the landscape and recommending the least intrusive solutions that will prevent problems before they begin. Below are landscape program recommendations:

- **View the landscape as a whole.** Instead of treating your lawn, trees, plants and shrubs separately, manage all three components of your yard as a whole. Creating a mini ecosystem in your backyard that includes all aspects of the landscape is a greener and healthier way to treat your outdoor space.
- **Start with a soil test to get a baseline.** Scheduling an appointment to conduct a soil test will provide a base line from which to begin and give you an idea of the types of plants to put in based on soil condition. For example rhododendrons and azaleas like a low pH or acidic soil whereas a high pH or less acidic soil is better suited for grass and shrubs.
- **Go organic if your landscape is healthy.** If you're looking to go organic with your landscape, a complete organic program is best suited for properties in reasonably good health that have good soil conditions free from rampant infestations of insects, mites or diseases.
- **Take the hybrid approach to combat issues.** Whether the issue is weeds, pests or disease, a hybrid approach allows you to adjust materials to address the specific problem with a

“rescue” treatment, creating a targeted approach while respecting nature’s existing harmony. While an organic program is good for normal maintenance non-organic materials are better for fighting difficult pests like gypsy moths or spider once they get out of control. Since there are not many good organic pesticides and fungicides for pest and disease control, the hybrid program incorporates non-organic products to combat these issues so that an organic program can be used once they are under control.

- **Get faster results, with less work.** If you're looking for instant results and are intolerant of damage to your yard, the traditional or integrated approach which can be a combination of naturally derived, synthetic and biorational materials working together to promote a productive growing environment.
- **Use proper cultural practices.** Do not to overlook the essential implementation of cultural practices such as proper pruning, watering, seeding, aeration and plant location to help to build a strong foundation and maintain plant health.



Organic care promotes beneficial insects like the praying mantis to the garden.

Alison Pottage is an ISA certified arborist. To set up an appointment with a skilled SavATree arborist, for a complimentary property evaluation to identify the right program for your tree, shrub and lawn care visit www.savatree.com

LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN TIPS

September signals the start of a new season for gardeners, whether you are beginning the process of putting your garden to bed or gearing up for a fresh start. Follow these tips and your garden will love you.

- Deadhead late-summer bloomers such as Echinacea, Daisy, Rudbeckia, Buddlia and Heliopsis.
- Look for Tsuga (Hemlock) woolly adelgid.
- Order Spring flowering bulbs.
- Bring summer vacationing houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. Check for hitchhiking pests.
- Start fall clean-up in the flower beds, cutting back anything that has finished blooming or is diseased.
- Take cuttings of coleus, begonias and geraniums to over-

winter indoors.

- Photograph your gardens and containers for a record of the year’s triumphs and frustrations.
- Divide and move perennials, trees and shrubs.
- Plant trees and shrubs. Keep well watered, if there isn’t sufficient rain.
- Plan for moving trees and shrubs in fall.
- Harvest remaining vegetables and clean up fallen fruit.
- Dispose of any diseased or infested plant debris, to avoid overwintering the problem.

For those short on , consider calling us for fertilization, pruning and fine gardening maintenance services this summer. 215-836-5145 or email mariah@livablelandscape.com

If you wish to unsubscribe, please email info@livablelandscape.com with subject unsubscribe.