

THE DIRT

The VNLA Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 37, Issue 2



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At this time of the year it becomes obvious to me that we aren't in the plant and stone business – we are in the “making people happy” business. Yes, the quality of our plants, our knowledge of those plants and their proper placement in a design, and our skills at installing and maintaining that landscape are all very important, but what makes or breaks a job is how well we have listened and responded to the needs of our clients. I can draft a design that makes sense to me from a technical and aesthetic point of view, but in the end it isn't about me at all – beauty is in the eye of the beholder and the person holding the checkbook, and each of those beholders is completely different.



The most important part of my job is getting to know my client and deducing what it is that they *really* want, even if they can't articulate the image in their mind's eye. When they say they want their landscape to look “natural” I ask ten more questions about what that word means to them and ask them to show me photos that reflect the style they want to achieve. I'm always amazed at the differences. I have one client that isn't happy unless plants are so crammed into a bed that they are climbing over each other and halfway covering the adjacent stonework, despite my warnings that we will need to thin them for proper root space and airflow. What might appear to me as a jumbled mess asking for an outbreak of Botrytis is a symbol of abundance for her and that makes her happy. A few streets over I have another client that isn't happy if plants are asymmetrical or touch each other – their garden is a reflection of their need for order and control, and we do what we must to keep it that way for them. Other clients hate red, or yellow, but lemon yellow is okay, just not gold. I had one that hated anything with big smooth leaves and everything had to be “frothy”. Lots of them hate evergreens, and want hydrangeas blooming in their yard all year long, and only about half of those get it when I explain that Vermont winters are “hydrangea-free”.

We are in the business of emotion – often what people plant in their front yards is the face they want the world to see and what they plant in the back yard is a reflection of their private selves, and neither one of those things is simple. It gets even crazier when we need to fulfill our clients' visions in such a short period of time – the pressure cooker period between mid-April and the 4th of July is enough to send us all over the edge. As the world becomes increasingly media driven, our clients live out of the digital pages of Martha Stewart on their iPads, expect instant gratification, and live in fear of not keeping up with their neighbors. I'm told by friends who live farther south that VT is still very relaxed compared to the suburbs of Boston and NYC, but Good Lord, sometimes I wonder. Although I believe that landscape design is a mix of both function and fashion, it's the fashion part of it that absorbs the most time and energy. My job is to manage expectations - “yes, someday your yard will look like that photo but plants take a few years to grow and it's a *process*”. I explain roles and responsibilities - “yes, you *do* have to water them, and there is no such thing as a “no-maintenance” garden”. In any given day I play marriage counselor, mediator, and therapist, trying to find a balance between what clients want, what they are willing to give, and what I think is possible under our own set of restrictions. My challenge is to explain those restrictions without sounding negative – “no I can't plant Cypress trees to make your yard look like Tuscany, but I can...”

Maintaining our morale and that of our employees during the pressure cooker period can be tough - I was in a garden center the other day and overheard an employee who was watering say “people are stupid – I want them all to go away and leave me alone so I can get my work done”. Hmm. As we all get tired the grumbings get louder – “I didn't go to college to pull weeds” or “why can't these people take care of their own yards?” There are days when I can certainly relate to those outbursts, but I remind myself (and my employees) that we are in the “making people happy” business. Even if my view of beautiful is sometimes different than my clients or I think their expectations are sometimes unreasonable, by putting plants in the ground I am helping both them and the planet, and that makes *me* happy. Soon the pressure will come down and we can rest and refuel, and see the forest for the trees. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next Summer Meeting so we can swap stories, learn from each other, improve our businesses, and discuss what makes us and our clients happy.

Rebecca Lindenmeyr, Green Works/VNLA President

Cover Photos courtesy of Ed Burke, Rocky Dale Gardens.

Top left: *Hibiscus 'Copper King'*; top right: *Echinacea 'Sunrise'*; bottom left: *Hemerocallis 'Saloam Daring Deception'* and bottom right: *Brugmansia 'Pink Beauty'*.

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Are you and your employees certified?



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New Green Works Member

Jessie Reid Bradley Landscape Designer

Jessie Bradley
2038 Lake Road
Charlotte, VT 05445
802.425.3636
jrbradley@madriver.com
Category: Landscape Design/Build; Landscape
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job opportunity

Position: *Seasonal Horticulturist at The Essex Resort & Spa, 70 Essex Way, Essex, VT.*



The Essex is seeking candidates for a seasonal Horticulturist; the position is officially open in November, 2011. Non-exempt; approx \$14 per hour depending on experience, 1100 hours per year.

The Horticulturist will be responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of all plantings and gardens at The Essex Resort & Spa. Will develop protocols for ongoing maintenance of the grounds and gardens on the Resort property. The plantings and gardens are to be maintained organically and sustainably.

Preferred qualifications: 8 to 10 years of horticulture experience with a minimum of 5 years in a hands-on supervisory capacity; BS in Horticulture. Ideal candidate will have experience in a Resort or large estate setting.

Interested candidates can email resumes to robc@vtculinaryresort.com or to request a complete detail job description.

Don't Miss the Green Works Summer Meeting and Trade Show!

WHEN: September 14, 2011

WHERE: Allen Bros., Inc., Westminster, VT

WHY:

- * time to catch up w/colleagues
- * great program incl. Rich Gallagher, Point of Contact Group - speaker at NE Grows and renowned author
- * beautiful location
- * good food



Participate in the Green Works 2011 Industry Awards Program

Scope out your projects and take lots of photos!

New categories and a later deadline for submissions!

Entry forms coming to your mailbox in August!

member profile

allen brothers farms

Cider donuts and apples come to the minds of many when they hear mention of Allen Brothers Farms in the Connecticut River Valley town of Westminister, Vermont. However, much has changed since 1956 when four Allen brothers purchased an orchard and began growing and selling apples and vegetables.

As the transition to the second generation of Allen's began, John Allen's son Tim bought the company and put up his first greenhouse in 1986. Since then, Allen Brother's has

The Allen pole pruner, invented by Tim's uncle Russell from their experience as leaders in the apple industry, continues to be the tool of choice for serious orchardists and landscapers.

As Allen Brothers grows, their decades of growing experience continues and enables them to provide new varieties and industry staples to landscapers and wholesale and retail customers -- products that are hardy, healthy and fairly-priced.



expanded to include a full garden center, nursery, and bulk yard. They grow thousands of annuals, perennials, shrubs, herbs and vegetables.

The recent addition of Allen Brothers 17 acre Tree Farm affords area landscapers a selection of hundreds of different types of trees and nursery stock, a holding area, bulk yard and other landscape supplies such as patio and wall stone. Specializing in fruit trees and perennials, landscape contractors can choose from the standard to unusual varieties. In addition, they bring in trees and shrubs to their holding area from their contracted growers.

A field of 20,000 mums, is a familiar sight to late summer travelers on Route 5. Acres of pumpkins, squash, late season perennials, and ornamental gourds have been added to give retail and wholesale customers a complete selection of fall materials.

Green Works is pleased to have Allen Brothers Farms be our Summer Meeting host on September 14, 2011. Allen Brothers is a true Vermont diversified farm and business. There is a full program planned - a variety of farm tours, updates from Tim Schmalz and Jon Turmel on the pests and insects of the season, and our keynote speaker - Richard Gallagher, one of the nation's leading experts on communications will speak to us about how to communicate with customers and employees in two separate sessions. If you missed Rich at New England Grows this past winter here is your chance to get some great tips on how to enhance your business and communication skills.



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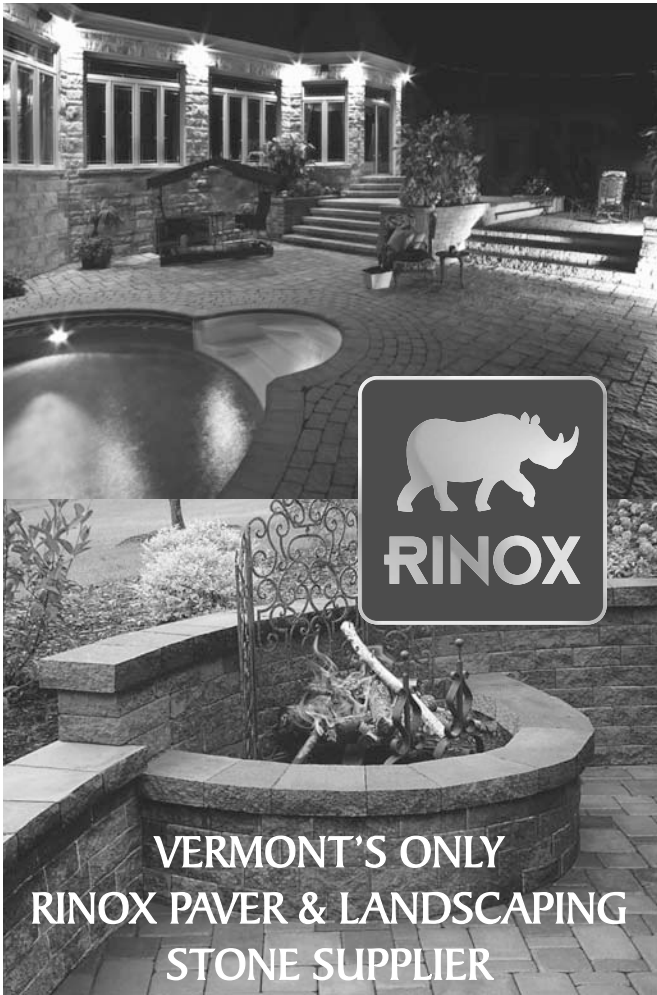
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Summer 2011- Anthracnose on Hardwoods, Summer Insect Pests of Interest, and Noxious Weeds Rules

by: Tim Schmalz & Jon Turmel

Noxious Weed Rule Changes:

Hopefully you have all heard that the Agency has committed to opening the Noxious Weed Rule for amendment in 2011. We have scheduled the opening of the rule this summer, and anticipate initial filing of the proposed amendments sometime during July.

We have been threatening to do this for some time now; I hope this comes as no surprise to the members of the VNLA.

Proposed changes to the rule including addition of several species to the 'B' weeds list, as well as some changes and additions to the definitions and how the prohibitions on sales and movement of regulated plants are to be enforced. Species to be prohibited include Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), burning bush/winged euonymous (*Euonymous elata*), Japanese and common barberries (*Berberis japonica* and *B. vulgaris*), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudocorus*), Amur maple (*Acer ginnala*), and European naiad (*Najas minor*). The preliminary pest risk assessments for these species have been completed, and I am soliciting comment from concerned stakeholders prior to filing. If you or anyone you know would like to comment on the proposed amendments or the addition of these species to the prohibited list, please send them to me either in an email or a letter, and we will consider your concerns and provide responses as appropriate.

In an effort to reduce the financial impact of a prohibition on sales of these species, there is to be a 'grandfather' period for those of you with these plants in your inventories when the final rule is filed. This period will run through the end of the 2014 season, providing three years for anyone with these plants currently in their inventories an opportunity to sell or install their plants. However,

imports and retail sales of these species from outside Vermont will be prohibited as of the final date of filing.

There will also be a formal comment period, announced in the various newspapers of record, to occur during the rulemaking period.

An electronic copy of the proposed rule is available at: <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/plantindustry/plantPathology/weeds/documents.html>, and I will be happy to forward paper copies upon request.

Anthracnose of Maples, Oaks, Ashes, and Others:

Wet, cool spring weather appears to be increasingly routine for us in northern New England, much to our collective discomfort and dismay. 2011 has been no different, and with that cool, soggy weather comes the usual collection of leaf and needle pathogens. Last year, it was needle blights and casts of pines and other conifers, this year it seems to be the hardwoods that have gotten the blues. Anthracnose is showing up on maples (red, sugar, Norway, silver, and hybrids), ash (green and white), oaks, walnut, birch, sycamore.

Anthracnose is a general term describing a group of leaf diseases, common to many northeastern hardwoods, that shows up in late spring and early summer, immediately after leaf out. There are as many pathogens that cause the typical leaf symptoms as there are hosts, but the catch-all name for the disease is the same regardless. The name anthracnose has its' roots in the Greek words for coal or carbuncle and disease, is an apt description of the black or dark lesions and deformities of the symptoms of infected leaves, which typically exhibit misshapen, twisted and blackened leaves. On maples and sycamores, the lesions tend to be

concentrated along the veins and midribs of the leaves. On ash, the leaflets tend to have marginal lesions, causing twisting and curling of the leaflets, which is similar to oak symptoms. Anthracnose on walnuts, elms, and birches tends to show up as more discrete black spots. Occasionally, in more serious cases, the pathogen moves into twigs and smaller branches, which may result in girdling and dieback in the crown.

The causal fungi are varied, and are mainly in the genera *Gnomonia*, *Marssonina*, *Stegophora*, *Apiognomonina*, *Gnomoniella*, and *Discula*, among others (fascinating, right?). The important thing to remember is that the disease tends to be intermittent in nature, largely dependent on weather for it to show up, and generally untreatable by the time symptoms show up, typical of many leaf and needle diseases. Although the symptoms are shocking to behold, and a source of distress for horticulturists, homeowners, and landscapers, there is usually little reason for concern as long as affected trees are otherwise healthy and well-cared for. Treatments are mainly directed at maintaining high host vigor, and include maintaining adequate water and nutrition, following proper pruning protocols, proper mulching and fall cleanup, and so forth. Fungicides are available and effective in cases of repeat defoliation of high-value trees, but are usually not necessary in most cases.

These anthracnose diseases are in contrast to a real killer, dogwood anthracnose, which is responsible for killing off many ornamental and forest flowering dogwoods south of us. That pathogen, the appropriately named *Discula destructiva*, goes beyond simply causing deformation of foliage and minor twig dieback, causing development of severe main stem and

continued on page 9

root cankers on flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). This is the anthracnose many of you have probably heard of, and it is a genuinely scary disease. The symptoms are more akin to butternut canker than the other anthracnoses, and affected trees often die within a few years of infection without treatment. As far as I know, *D. destructiva* does not attack our native Vermont dogwoods, and many of the Asian dogwood species are resistant. In fact, Korean or Japanese dogwood, *C. kousa*, is frequently mentioned as a replacement for native *C. florida* specimens that have succumbed to dogwood anthracnose. Obviously, we don't have many flowering dogwoods here in Vermont, so the likelihood any of us will see *D. destructiva* in all its' sinister glory around here is very slim.

Oh, and by the way, we just received a report that late blight has been confirmed on tomatoes on Long Island. So, keep your daconil and serenade handy, and an eye on the weather. If you are interested in tracking late blight movement, a new website has been set up, available at: <http://usablight.org/>. Of course, if late blight shows up in Vermont, we will do our best to get the word out in as timely as fashion as possible.

Additionally, there have been a lot of reports and confirmations of insect pests from around Vermont as well, and we have some insights on a few here.

Asiatic Garden Beetle: *Maladera castanea* (Arrow):

This scarab beetle was introduced to North America from Japan during the 1920's. Since then, it has expanded its range westward from New England along the great lakes corridor to Ohio and south along the eastern seaboard into South Carolina. Each year we receive reports of adults devouring perennials, fruit trees, and even vegetables; adults feed on over 100 different species. The larval stage (C-shaped grub) has become the

predominant grub species in several areas of Vermont. One of the major problems we are seeing is that imidacloprid (Merit) is not controlling this grub. It is important to identify the grub species you are dealing with before treating.

European Snout Beetle: *Phyllobius oblongus* (L)

This weevil is a general feeder of fruit trees, maple, elm, birch and willow to name a few. They emerge from their overwintering sites as pupae in soil in late May through June. Feeding on buds damages developing leaves and oftentimes looks like pear thrips and/or frost damage. Notching along margins along with browning tissue are common. After mating, females deposit eggs just below the surface of the soil. Eggs hatch in about 30 days and feed on the fine roots of host trees. Foliar damage by the adults can be severe at times.

Pear Leaf Blister Mite: *Phytoptus pyri* (L)

Pear leaf blister mite is a widespread and often common pest on pears but will also attack apples. The female of the species is about 0.2mm in length with a long, narrow white/pale brown body. The adults of both sexes usually over-winter beneath the outer bud scales and become active in the early spring when the buds then start to swell. At this time they burrow deeper into the buds and start to feed and lay eggs at the base of the inner scales of the bud. The adults also feed on other parts of the tree including the young leaves and developing flower buds. As with most mites, populations can be found on the underside of the leaves which shelter them from sun and rain. However, as the leaves succumb to the attack some of the cells collapse under the blisters formed as a result of the feeding and they enter through these damaged areas. Small galls are formed where the mites continue to breed throughout the summer. As new mites emerge, so more blisters are formed that then develop into galls. As the days shorten, the mites then progress

to the bud scales again for the winter. Products containing bifenthrin, sulphur, insecticidal soaps and plant oils are all recommended for this pest.

Rose Chafer: *Macrodactylus subspinosus* (Fabricius)

Reports of severe damage by the adults are coming in daily. Despite its common name, the rose chafer attacks the flowers, buds, foliage, and fruit of numerous plants including grape, rose, strawberry, peach, cherry, apple, *Tilia*, raspberry, [http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeipm/images/Rose Chafer damaged cluster.jpg](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeipm/images/Rose%20Chafer%20damaged%20cluster.jpg) blackberry, clover, hollyhock, corn, bean, beet, pepper, cabbage, peony, and many more plants, trees, and shrubs. The rose chafer has a straw-colored body, reddish-brown head and thorax with black undersurface. The adult is about 0.5 inches in length with long, spiny, reddish-brown legs that gradually become darker near the tip. Eggs of the rose chafer are oval, white and about 0.05 inches long and 0.03 inches in width. Larvae are C-shaped white grubs about 0.8 inches long and 0.12 inches wide when fully grown. Larvae are found in sandy soil feeding on grass roots and can be identified by a distinctive rastral pattern.

Approximately two weeks after being deposited, eggs hatch into tiny, white, C-shaped grubs. These C-shaped white grubs are about 0.8 inches long and 0.12 inches wide when fully grown. Larvae are found in sandy soil feeding on grass roots and can be identified by The larvae feed on the roots of grasses, weeds, grains, and other plants throughout the summer, becoming fully developed by autumn.

European Earwig: *Forficula auricularia* (L)

The winter was kind to the overwintering adult females and her eggs. Good snow cover and no extended killing cold periods made for ideal survival. The European earwig feeds on a wide variety of foodstuffs. It will eat almost any plant material, as well as lichens, pollen, other arthropods, and most household pantry items. They will also feed on



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Montreal Botanic Gardens Tour

Monday, September 19, 2011

You will not want to miss this day tour to one of the world's top garden attractions, the Montreal Botanic Gardens, *and* a chance to see their famous Chinese lantern display. Leaving the Horticulture Research Center in So. Burlington (behind Heritage Ford off Rte. 7 south) at 8am, returning around 7pm, we'll travel in a Premier luxury coach. This tour is sponsored by Green Works, the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association, with collaboration from the Kings Garden at Fort Ticonderoga and UVM Extension.

Refreshments will be served going and coming, and the videos on the bus will give you an overview of these gardens-- the second largest in the world-- and show you the development of them on the way up, and showcase other gardens including ones from England on the way back. The tour price includes admission to the greenhouse conservatories and gardens. Lunch may be purchased at the gardens, or you may bring your own. Keep in mind the mileage alone (figured at the federal rate) if you drove would be more than the total price of this tour, would entail dealing with Montreal traffic, and wouldn't even include parking and gardens admission, as well as the chance to meet and learn from others with garden interests--all part of this tour.



This tour is timed to coincide with the Chinese lantern display. This display of hundreds of hand-made silk lanterns is of course stunning at night, but is even more colorful and easily seen in daylight. The theme this year is "The First Emperor." In addition to the lanterns strung along walks, each year the main display

represents a new theme

and new lanterns, some floating in the pond, some over 10 feet high. This display is found throughout the largest Chinese garden outside China (done in the style of the Ming Dynasty), where you'll also find the largest Penjin (Chinese bonsai) collection in North America. Nearby you'll find the modernistic Japanese garden, tea room and bonsai collection; and many specialty gardens such as rock garden, perennials, roses, design ideas, trees and shrubs. The 11 greenhouses have changing seasonal displays, and extensive collections of plants such as orchids, begonias, ferns and cacti. Included is a free tram ride with commentary around the gardens.

Any family or friends interested in joining you? Send in your registration NOW in order to guarantee seats on this relaxing, comfortable and educational tour which usually sells out early.

Return registrations by August 30, 2011 to: Leonard Perry, Dept Plant and Soil Science, UVM, Burlington, VT 05405. Questions? leonard.perry@uvm.edu

-----clip and mail-----

Montreal Gardens Tour Registration--September 19, 2011

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Attendee names: _____

Required for border crossing will be one of the following: U.S. passport, passport card, or Enhanced Drivers License. If you need to obtain one of these, please allow at least 4 to 6 weeks

Enclosed is my check (payable to "VNLA") for _____ persons at \$65 per person (\$59 per person for Green Works members and Vermont Master Gardeners), for a total of \$_____. Tour cost includes luxury motor coach, refreshments throughout the trip, and admission. Confirmation and further details will be provided prior to the trip.

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FIELD

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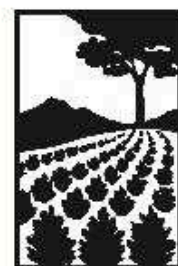
Billy, Ralph, and Ted



Attention Wholesale Customers

We consider anyone who sells or installs plants as their primary source of income a potential wholesale customer. We ask for a canceled business check and a business card to prove that you are in business full time, as well as a description of what service you provide and how long you have been in business.

We do not offer wholesale status to excavators, builders, masons, landscape architects, or any other allied professions.



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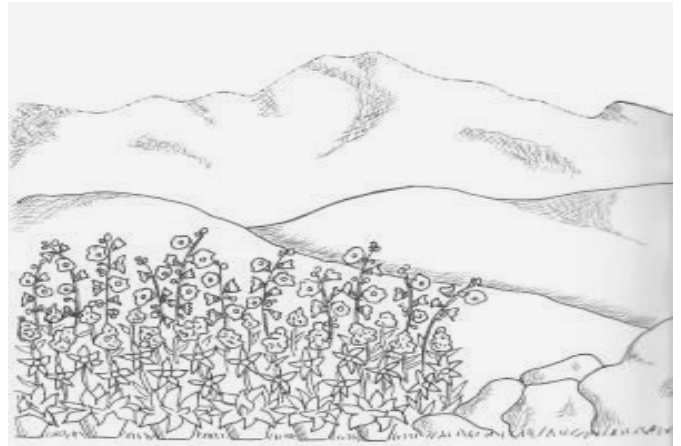


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news from the U

Summer is quiet on campus with students away, except for the few summer ones in continuing education courses and even these are often off campus (such as the several department ones at the UVM farms, and my perennial garden design one online). Classes begin on Aug. 29, with the week before with meetings resuming as well as 9-month faculty return.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, we've once again planted the new annuals at the Waterfront Park in Burlington. You can find the full listing and photos online. This year, due to the high lake levels, we had to plant in two stages. The main beds were planted (thanks again to Burlington Parks and Recreation for bed preparation, planting and followup maintenance) on June 1, with the boathouse beds planted a couple weeks later. By then the boathouse deck was no longer under water, and people could use it instead of the flower beds for access. As in past years, Sarah Kingsley Richards from our department assisted me with on-site design, this year with our focus more on plant combinations and interplanting. Thanks again to Pleasant View Gardens and D.S. Cole Growers in New Hampshire for providing all the vegetative selections.

Another couple additions you'll see if visiting the Waterfront Park gardens are in perennials and signage. I've begun adding back new perennials from my trials in the beds by the bike path, some in now and others coming later in summer. The latter were received this year as plugs and liners, and I'm growing these on in jumbo pots prior to planting out. The square of odd shapes you'll see on the signs, if you're not familiar with this, is a QR code. Simply scan this with the appropriate free app on a smartphone and it will take you directly to my gardens website (perrysperennials.info/aaswp.html) without having to type in the address. You can then access the plant lists and photos from there.

Other news from our department and my programs include my former student Sarah Kingsley Richards now successfully graduated, and remaining on in the department with her regular day job working with Ann Hazelrigg in the Plant Clinic and Dr. Berkett. The latter retired officially in June, but will remain active working on her organic apple and grape grants. Grace Matiru, another grad currently working with me, has applied for several grants and will be conducting research on gardening and buying habits of consumers, particular this first year in relation to growing home vegetables and fruits. Hopefully her results will help our

industry better meet the needs and know the scope of this growing area.

Then this fall I have a new grad student coming on board, a former Vermonter growing up on a perennial nursery and now with an MLA (Annie White Stoeffel), returning from having a landscape firm in Indiana to work on her doctorate. She'll also assist as TA in the landscape courses, this fall with Jane Sorensen who has been interim instructor, and then in spring with our new department member announced in the last issue-- Stephanie Hurley.



Believe it or not plans are underway for our next New England Greenhouse Conference to be held in 2012 (note, alternate years so not this year), on November 7-8, 2012 again at the DCU Center in Worcester. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics you'd like to see there, just let me know (leonard.perry@uvm.edu). Due to a successfully run and well-attended conference this last fall (thanks to all of you who attended), we'll once again be able to offer grants to state associations and some research funding as well (if interested in applying for the latter this summer, let me know as well and I can send the details).

Make sure to watch for details this summer on our day tour mid-September once again to Montreal to view the gardens and lantern display, hosted by your association. I'll post this on my website as well (perrysperennials.info), where you can also check out my latest pages on home fruits (homefruitgrowing.info), videos from this spring including the half-hour Across the Fence with your association on Vermont Grown, and my new blog (perrysperennials.wordpress.com/).

Submitted by Leonard Perry

On the National Front: Energy Conservation through Trees Act Reintroduced in the House

This article is provided by the ANLA/Lighthouse Program

The Energy Conservation through Trees Act creates a grant program to assist electric utilities with programs that use targeted planting of shade trees to reduce residential energy demand.

The purpose of the legislation is to help homeowners lower

their electric bills (and help utilities lower their peak load demand) by reducing residential energy demand caused by the need to run air conditioners and heaters at a high level. Shade trees not only help mitigate the urban heat island effect, but also help to shield homes from sun in the summer and cold winds in the winter.

continued to page 23



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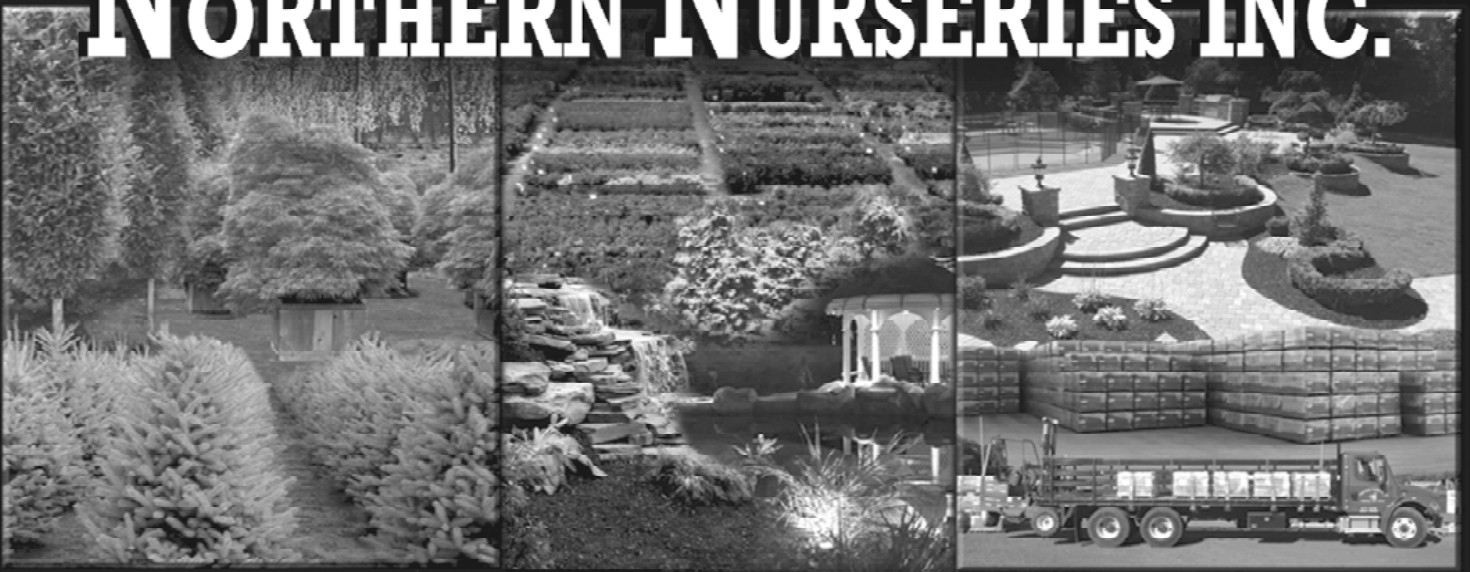


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continued from page 9

perennials and some annuals. Marigolds seem to be one of their favorites. If you suspect slugs as the culprit in your flower garden and have treated for them without success, go out at night with a flashlight and you'll probably find earwigs eating dinner.

Ticks:

Once again, we would like to make you aware of the importance of checking yourself for ticks on a daily basis when working outdoors. We receive ticks for identification on a daily basis and this year seems to be particularly bad. As with the earwigs, this past winter was ideal for survival. The most common tick we are now receiving is the black legged tick, AKA deer tick. This tick is responsible for the transmission of Lyme disease. If you remove the tick within 24 hours, you do not have to worry about Lyme disease transmission.

New Detection of Asian Longhorned Beetle:

Stephanie Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

After noticing unusual damage on three maple trees in his yard, a local landowner in Tate Township, Clermont County, Ohio contacted state forestry authorities. His keen observation and timely report resulted in the latest detection of the Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*). This beetle has the potential to greatly impact Ohio's maple sugar processors, its plant nursery industry, and the tourism that is generated during the fall foliage season. Surveys are currently underway to determine the extent of the infestation. Citizens

in and around the area are asked to report any signs of the presence of this beetle or sightings of the beetle itself to a toll free hotline 855-252-6450.

This beetle is large (measuring 1 to 1.5in long), is black with white spots, and has long antennae that are black with white bands. The antennae measure the length of the body in the females, but are twice the body length of the males. Signs of this beetle include perfectly round exit holes ranging in size from 3/8 to 1/2in in diameter and wood shavings or saw dust found around the base of the tree resulting from the feeding and tunneling behavior of the larvae. This beetle has only one generation per year with adults usually present from July to October. Each female can lay between 35 and 90 eggs in her lifetime. These eggs hatch within 10 to 15 days of being laid. The adults rarely go far from the tree from which they emerge (natal tree) which means that human assisted transportation of this beetle is likely the cause of its spread. This beetle prefers all species of maple, but will also infest birch, Ohio buckeye, elms, horsechestnuts, and willows. They have occasionally been found on ashes, mimosa, and poplars.

In addition to this detection, the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has expanded the quarantine area by an additional four square miles in Worcester County, Massachusetts to prevent the human assisted spread of this invasive beetle.

Jon and Tim will be at the Summer Meeting and Trade Show to fill us in even more!

Invasives Prevention and Management for Foresters, Loggers and Land Managers

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Invasive plants are taking over Vermont's forests with devastating consequences – altering ecosystem functions, creating financial burdens for landowners and reducing economic value of working forests. This all-new training – taught by foresters and other land managers – will give you the tools you need to incorporate invasives management and prevention into your logging operations and land management plans. ***Be part of the solution.***

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- ◆ Prioritize treatment activities based on land management goals, resources and difficulty of control
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- ◆ New England Society of American Foresters (5.5 Category 1 credits)
- ◆ New Hampshire Licensed Foresters (4 credits)
- ◆ Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) (8 credits)
- ◆ Vermont Certified Horticulturist (3 credits)

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Sept. 21, 2011: Thetford Community Center, *Thetford, VT*

Sept. 27, 2011: Putney School, *Putney, VT*

May 22, 2012: Old Gray Barn, *Rupert, VT*

May 29, 2012: Hinesburg Town Hall, *Hinesburg, VT*

COST:

\$45 per workshop (lunch included).

SIGN UP: Registration required. For more information go to:

www.nature.org/vermont/weeds or call (802) 229-4425.

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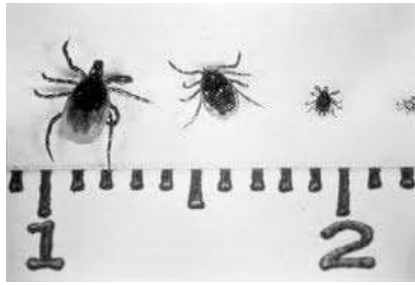
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Lyme Disease - Excerpts from VT Department of Health Bulletin

Who is at risk of getting Lyme disease?

Deer ticks live in wooded, brushy and grassy places, including gardens. Individuals at greatest risk are those who spend time outside in areas that have a lot of ticks that are infected with the spirochete. In the Northeast, most illness occurs during the spring when the nymphal ticks are most active and people spend a lot of time outside, often with large amounts of skin exposed.



What is the treatment for Lyme disease?

Appropriate treatment of Lyme disease with antibiotics almost always results in a full cure. While early treatment is best, most people diagnosed later in the course of illness can also be successfully treated.

How do you prevent Lyme disease?

The best way to prevent Lyme disease is to prevent tick bites. While outdoors,

- ♦ As much as possible, avoid high grass and bushy areas; stay on hiking trails.
- ♦ Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts to minimize skin exposure to ticks.
- ♦ Tuck your pants into your socks to form a barrier to tick attachment
- ♦ Wear light-colored clothing to help see ticks on your clothing.
- ♦ Check for ticks, looking particularly for what may look like nothing more than a new freckle or speck of dirt, and remove ticks promptly.
- ♦ Use an effective tick repellent on your skin or on your clothing. There are several repellents that are effective against ticks. For an up-to-date list of EPA registered products, see <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/mosquito-tick-product.html>. Repellents should not be used on infants under 2 months of age. Read the label carefully and use according to the recommendations.
- ♦ After you come inside,
- ♦ Check your or your child's body for ticks, and remove them promptly. Pay special attention to the head, armpits, and groin area.
- ♦ Showering within a few hours of being outside may also be helpful.

For more information: 800.640.4374 or visit www.healthvermont.gov.

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New Vermont Law Limits Use of Nitrogen and Phosphorus for Turf

by: Sid Bosworth, Extension Agronomist, University of Vermont

Because of the concern of phosphorus (P) runoff from urban areas into streams and lakes causing algae growth and eutrophication, some states and municipalities have passed laws within the past 10 years or so limiting or prohibiting the applications of P to lawns and other landscapes. This winter, the Vermont legislation passed such a bill. The way the law is worded, it prohibits the application of phosphorus fertilizer (containing no more than 0.67% P) to lawns and turf. Compost and manipulated manure are exempted from the law (regardless of their P content). According to the new law, the only time that a lawn or turf can receive a P fertilizer is if a soil test shows the site to be deficient in P and the soil test has to be taken within 18 months of P application. The Agency of Agriculture in consultation with UVM is directed to approve a standard for an appropriate soil test method. The other exception for the use of a P fertilizer is during establishment of turf, in which case a complete starter fertilizer is allowed within that first establishment year.

Another aspect of this new law deals with nitrogen (N). This part of the bill is somewhat confusing but my interpretation is that any N fertilizer you apply to turf has to have at least 15% of its nitrogen be a slow release form. The time of application for N fertilizer is limited from April 1 to October 15. There is also a restriction of application within 25 feet of a “water of the state” which includes “rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, reservoirs, ponds, lakes, springs, and all bodies of surface waters, artificial or natural, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon the state or any portion of it.”

It is interesting that there is no restriction on the time of application for compost or manipulated manure. Although there may be less risk of N leaching from these materials (since their N sources are slow release), they do contain phosphorus that is just as vulnerable to P runoff as the P found in fertilizers. So, as a good steward of the land, it makes sense to avoid the application of these sources during the non-growing season. It also makes sense to limit the application rates of these sources to a reasonable rate that avoids P buildup.

According to the new law, a sign will have to be posted wherever P fertilizers are sold which states, “Phosphorus runoff poses a threat to water quality. Most Vermont lawns do not benefit from fertilizer containing phosphorus. Under Vermont law, fertilizer containing phosphorus shall not be applied to lawn unless applied to new lawn or lawn that is deficient for phosphorus as indicated by a soil test.” So, how clear is it that most Vermont lawns do not benefit from fertilizer containing phosphorus? There was one study conducted by the University of Vermont which showed a

majority of the lawns in St. Albans were at adequate to high soil test levels. However, I know of no comprehensive state wide study. I recently summarized all of soil tests submitted to the UVM Agricultural Testing Lab for lawns from 2008 to 2010 (n = 342) and found that 40% of the samples were at low to medium levels, justifying an application of P. Fifteen percent were “Optimum” which usually means an application may be recommended to maintain optimum levels. That left about 40% of the samples that clearly needed no P fertilization to maintain turf growth and function. I would be the first to admit that my method of summarizing all the samples submitted to a lab is not an accurate portrayal of soil test levels across the state. In fact, the data could be skewed since most people submitting a soil test may be doing so because they suspect a problem such as nutrient deficiencies. However, I think this data does demonstrate that not all lawns can function to their optimum levels without adequate levels of P supplementation.

So, what do I mean by “function”? We often think of lawns as an aesthetic part of the visual landscape. But in reality, lawns perform important environmental functions particularly when it comes to water management. Many studies have shown that turf is an excellent medium for water infiltration. In one study, just fifteen meters of turf interrupted surface runoff and filtered 89 percent of its sediments. Turf with good cover and density are most apt to provide the functions cited in these studies and, without adequate phosphorus fertility, research has shown that P runoff can actually increase due to more soil erosion from a thin stand of turf.

At the same time, over fertilization of lawns (over a long period of time) can cause soil levels to build up in P resulting in a high potential risk of P runoff. Research has shown that when soils become saturated with water to the point that excess water runs off the site, there is a potential risk that some soluble P can be pulled out of the soil and into the runoff water especially when soil test levels are in the high to excessive range for phosphorus. So, it is important to maintain adequate levels of P in the soil without allowing for an excessive build up.

Of course runoff is not just a result of nutrient levels in the soil. It takes saturated soils to cause runoff. So, a turf with good infiltration capabilities is the best way to reduce the risks associated with P runoff. All the practices that promote good grass growth (mowing, fertility and liming, aerating, over seeding, and proper watering) can help alleviate runoff problems.

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Organic Lawns and Landscape Refresher

Workshops Delve into Practical Solutions on Friday, August 19, 2011 - 9am to 1pm - Newburyport - with Javier Gil.

NEWBURYPORT, MA -- How do I interpret, and then do, what a soil test recommends? What do I do with a grub-infested lawn? Where do I get organic products and how do I use them? What is the systems approach to organic landscaping and how do I start doing it?

Answers to these questions and many more will be discussed in depth by expert and NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional Javier Gil, during the first-ever NOFA/Mass "Organic Lawns & Landscapes Refresher" workshop, happening Friday, August 19 from 9am to 1pm at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newburyport. A similar workshop will be held Friday, August 12 at UMass Amherst with Chip Osborne.

Practical skills and problem solving will be the focus of these four-hour intensive workshops. Beginning with an overview of the systems approach to organic landscaping; soil testing; soil amendments; managing nutrition; grass types; and compost tea, Gil will then delve into practical solutions for real-life landscape problems.

Case study examples will be explored in depth within small groups, with the goal of boosting students' hands-on knowledge of organic lawns and landscaping and how to transition to organic management with success, cost-efficiency and grace.




Javier Gil, a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional since 2007, earned his AAS in Horticulture from the Essex Agricultural School in 2004. A native of Spain, he became a certified lawn care professional by the Grassroots Healthy Lawn Program in 2006 and is Maugett certified. He developed his business in organic lawn and land care seven years ago and incorporates his deep understanding of natural systems into landscape design, construction and maintenance for his clients. He serves on several associations and committees and teaches organic and ecological gardening and landscaping throughout New England. He believes the key to bringing positive change in our environment is the cultivation of broad-based public support through education.

The "Organic Lawns & Landscapes Refresher" Workshop is approved for re-accreditation credits for professionals. The cost is \$100 for the general public; \$75 for NOFA members and NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals. Walk-ins welcome (bring check made out to NOFA/Mass). To register visit www.nofamass.org/programs/landcare/index.php or contact coordinator Kathy Litchfield at (413) 773-3830 or Kathy@nofamass.org. Online registration using Visa or Mastercard is available.



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Ways of Reducing the Risks of Phosphorus Runoff from Your Lawn

- Soil test and apply P only if needed.
- If your soil test shows that you do not need to add additional P, check with your garden supply retailers for "no P" or "low P" lawn fertilizers
- Lime to adequately maintain a soil pH of 6.2 – 7.0
- Apply fertilizer when the soil is dry to moderately moist and lightly water it in.
- Avoid applying fertilizer when the soil is saturated with water or just before an intense rainfall.
- In general, avoid over-watering your lawn. This will reduce the risk of runoff.
- Use a drop spreader a spinner spreader with a guard to avoid accidental spreading onto impervious surfaces such as sidewalks and roads.
- Avoid mowing such that clippings are blown onto impervious surfaces. Clippings contain P and also contribute to potential runoff.
- Compacted soils decrease water infiltration and, thus, increase runoff potential. If your lawn is subject to a lot of traffic, it may be compacted, and you should consider aerating the soil once or twice a year. This can also help reduce thatch layers.

Industry Calendar

August 3, 2011

RINLA Summer Meeting
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www.rinla.org

August 3, 2011

Green Works - Summer Twilight Meeting
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August 10, 2011

Green Works - Summer Twilight Meeting
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August 17, 2011

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August 19, 2011

Organic Lawns & Landscape Refresher
NOFA-Organic Land Care Professionals
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
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413.773.3830
www.nofamass.org

August 24, 2011

Green Works - Summer Twilight Meeting
Cadys Falls Nursery
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September 14, 2011

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September 15, 2011

NENA Simple Gathering
Tarnow Nursery
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September 17, 2011

RINLA Golf Tournament to benefit the Kenneth Lagerquist Scholarship
Laurel Lane Country Club
West Kingston, RI
www.rinla.org

September 19, 2011

Montreal Botanic Garden Tour
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www.greenworksvermont.org
leonard.perry@uvm.edu

September 21, 2011

Training on Best Management Practices into Land Management Activities
Thetford Community
Thetford, VT
802-229-4425
www.nature.org/vermont/weeds

September 27, 2011

Training on Best Management Practices into Land Management Activities
Putney School
Putney, VT
802-229-4425
www.nature.org/vermont/weeds

November 2, 2011

NENA Volunteer Leaders Summit
MHS Elm Bank Reservation
Wellesley, MA

January 25, 2012

Maine Nursery & Landscape Association Annual Meeting & Trade Show
Keynote speaker: Michael Dirr
Augusta Civic Center
Augusta, ME
207.623.6430

January 25 – 28, 2012

ANLA Management Clinic
Galt House Hotel & Suites
Louisville, KY
www.anla.org
www.landcarenetwork.org

February 1-3, 2012

New England Grows
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
Boston, MA
www.NewEnglandGrows.org

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Planting shade trees around homes in a strategic manner is a proven way to lower energy demand in residential areas. According to research conducted by the Department of Energy, three shade trees strategically planted around a house can reduce home air-conditioning bills by about 30 percent in some cities, and a nationwide shade program could reduce air-conditioning use by at least 10 percent. Shade trees also help to:

- Improve public health and air quality by absorbing particulate matter;
- Store carbon dioxide to help slow global warming;
- Reduce the risk of flooding in urban areas by absorbing

stormwater runoff;

- Improve private property values and increase residential aesthetics;
- Preserve public infrastructure, such as streets and sidewalks.

Although this legislation doesn't specifically allow private firms to apply for grant money without working with a municipality, ANLA will continue to work with lawmakers to make this program as beneficial as possible for the nursery and landscape industry.

Green Works
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visit us at www.greenworksvermont.org