

Texas Rural Living—Landscape & Irrigation

July Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

Hello Friends:

And now for the June newsletter...in July. We've always heard two is better than one, so here's two months in one!

I actually figured you all would rather me be out on your property keeping everything up and going instead of sitting at my desk writing a newsletter. I apologize for not talking to you in June but I hope July will make up for it.

The heat is in full swing and way ahead of schedule. With the official start of summer being June 21, we've now been in the heat wave for several weeks. This takes its toll not only on your lawn and landscape, but also yourself and our crews. As we move into the "hot part" of the summer, be careful outside in the heat.

I hope you all are having a great summer and all is going well. As always, don't hesitate to call if we can do anything extra while you enjoy your summer.

From my desk...

Clint

Clint D. Tunnell
President/LI 15510

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...

BACKFLOW PROTECTION—

Many of you with irrigation systems may have a big green box in the ground at the beginning of your system...how many of you know what this is?

Inside this box is a brass device known as a backflow prevention device...most commonly a double check valve. This device is used to protect you from back siphonage and backflow. Back siphonage and back flow are the unwanted reverse flow of water into the water system. When this happens, contaminants and pollutants can be brought into the water system through sprinkler heads, leaking pipes or the

like. While this device is now required by the TCEQ, (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), some of you may not have a device on your system. It is important not only for the safety of your drinking water, but also for the safety of anyone who is on the same water system as you. Think about this...if your neighbor is washing his car and puts the water hose on the ground into a puddle of oily, dirty water...would you want that water to end up in your glass when you set down for supper? Mostly likely not. For more information on protecting you and your property against backflow, contact the office.



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Special points of interest:

July 4th: Independence Day

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Backflow Prevention Device

LAWN MAINTENANCE NEWS...

NUTGRASS, NUTSEdge...YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE IN THE LANDSCAPE—

Have you ever been told that if you have a place that itches...don't scratch it. Well, in lawns and landscapes that annoying little itch is often nutgrass. It likes to appear in most places where you don't want it and can become very aggressive in its growth pattern. The best way to rid yourself of the problem is through chemical application. There are a couple of products on the market that we are currently using that we have had much success with in controlling the spread of nutgrass.

Nutgrass gets its name from the nut that is formed underneath the soil. It grows along a tuber root and multiplies rapidly from a single nut. Nutgrass can not be mechanically removed or pulled. This is probably the worse thing you can do for control. This will cause another nut to form where the grass was broken off when it was pulled. This will increase the spreading and growth of nutgrass, making it more difficult to solve the problem.

If you have a nutgrass issue in your landscape, please call the office and let us help you.

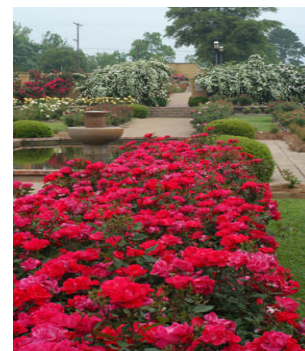


LANDSCAPE INFORMATION...

KNOCKOUT ROSE:

Becoming everyone's favorite rose, the Knockout offers a variety of colors for roses that require little care. These roses are drought and heat tolerant as well as tolerant to many of the common rose pests and diseases. The question of deer hardiness I think depends on the

deer...I've seen roses in the country that have survived on their own and have seen others that served as a buffet line. The knockouts offer beautiful color throughout the spring, summer and fall. They can grow quite rapidly and should be trimmed back in early spring to maintain and fresh look throughout the year.



IRRIGATION CONVERSATION...

WHEN TO WATER GRASS?

Most grasses take on a dull, dark appearance and leaves begin to roll when they need water. The best time to water is early in the morning.

HOW MUCH TO WATER?

Apply enough to wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. One to 1.5 inches of water is usually adequate. Use a soil probe if available or screwdriver to determine the depth the water actually reached.

HOW TO WATER?

Use a sprinkler that emits large drops of

water that remain close to the ground, not one that sprays fine mist into the air. Most grasses for our region of Texas require 1-1.5 inches of water every 5 days.

SOIL TYPE

Lawns on sandy soil require more frequent watering than lawns on loam or clay soils. Water can be applied less often to clay and loam soils, but it should be applied more slowly to prevent runoff.

SLOPE

To avoid runoff on sloping areas, place sprinklers near the top of the slope. Ap-

ply water slowly for 5-15 minutes, off 15 minutes, on 15 minutes, etc until the correct amount of water has been applied.

For more information contact the office or the County Extension Office, the Texas Department of Agriculture or the Texas Water Development Board.



HELPFUL HINTS AROUND THE YARD...

STUMP GRINDING—

Do you have an unwanted stump in your yard or on your property what you are tired of driving around or mowing around? Well if so, we have a solution to your problem.

Stump grinding is a new service that we now offer and is just one more way that we can help make your property even more prestine.

By using our Bluebird stump grinding machine, we can grind the stump to approximately 12” below the service of the ground. This will not only look better

but will help prevent future damage to equipment by eliminating an obstacle to hit.

We will be happy to give you an estimate for removing an stumps that you may have. Give us a call!



SERVICES PROVIDED TO OUR CUSTOMERS...

The following is a list of services provided by Texas Rural Living. If you have a project but do not see it on the list, please contact us.

- Lawn Maintenance**
- Landscape Design**
- Landscape Installation**
- Landscape Maintenance**

- Landscape Renovations & Updates**
- Irrigation Design**
- Irrigation Installation**
- Irrigation Repair and Maintenance**
- Irrigation Retrofits for water conservation**
- Ornamental & Turf Plant Pest Control**
- Winter Clean Up and Leaf Removal**
- Holiday Lighting**



HOLIDAY LIGHTING...what...already?

Well, believe it or not, I have already had 3 calls pertaining to holiday lighting for this year. While we are not ready for it again quite yet, this is an excellent time of year to get on the list and for us to give you an estimate on what you might want for the holiday season. Last year we assisted 20 property owners with their holiday lighting and we anticipate even more this year. If you're interested or even think you might be, go ahead and give the office a call or an email and lets sit down and discuss what we have to offer for your property. We had fun installing lights last holiday season and the property owners all enjoyed getting to look at them instead of having to put them up and take them down.





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A *professional* lawn, landscape & irrigation company goes beyond taking over a chore that the property owner does not want to perform.

A *professional* company looks forward to a long-term working partnership - with the property owner - to create a property to be proud of and enjoyed, for years to come.

WE ARE A PROFESSIONAL COMPANY.



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY !!!



FOURTH OF JULY TRIVIA

See how much knowledge you really have about the 4th of July...enjoy!

1. *The Declaration of Independence begins with what words?*
2. *Who wrote the words of The Star Spangled Banner?*
3. *How did the liberty bell get its crack?*
4. *How many stars were on the first American flag?*
5. *Where was the first national capital located?*
6. *What city was the Liberty Bell located?*
7. *Which two patriots died on July 4th?*
8. *Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?*
9. *Who do historians believe sewed the first American flag?*
10. *Estimated number of Fourth of July cookouts?*
11. *The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are known as the?*
12. *The dollar amount of all U.S. fireworks imported?*
13. *Where did immigrants first set foot in the New World to gain entry?*
14. *How many people visit the Liberty Bell annually?*
15. *How tall is the Statue of Liberty?*
16. *Whose signature is the largest on the Declaration of Independence?*
17. *How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?*
18. *Life, Liberty and _____?*
19. *Who said...“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”?*
20. *ONE NATION UNDER _____?*

ANSWERS:

1. *When in the course of human events*
2. *Francis Scott Key*
3. *During its first ring*
4. *13*
5. *1774, Carpenters Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
6. *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
7. *John Adams and Thomas Jefferson*
8. *John Hancock*
9. *Betsy Ross*
10. *150 million*
11. *The Bill of Rights*
12. *\$211 million*
13. *Ellis Island*
14. *1.5 million*
15. *151 feet*
16. *John Hancock’s*
17. *Two*
18. *The pursuit of happiness*
19. *Thomas Jefferson*
20. *GOD*

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

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