



Bear Creek Press

'Feelin' Fall in the Air'

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Fun Facts About Landscaping

Would you want a plumber to plant your trees? Would you hire a painter to trim shrubs or plan your landscape? Probably not. It seems, however, this is the attitude many persons take when it comes to landscaping. Some individuals who "specialize" as handymen advertise "painting, carpentry, attic cleaning and landscaping." We suppose that if all the other jobs are taken they could always resort to landscaping to make a living- anyone can dig a hole- Right!?

After seeing the work of handymen, we would like to see tree trimming performed by tree surgeons, lawns maintained by those who have proper equipment and landscaping done by qualified nurserymen.

At the very least, a landscape professional should know as much as possible about plant growth habits, mature plant sizes, resistance to deer and other pests, nutritional requirements, tolerance to cold, heat, drought, and other environmental factors, soil types and structure, drainage issues, fertility, hardscape materials, stone and wood, and the interaction between these materials and plants. WHEW! It's tiring just thinking about it.

A comment we hear often from persons who have chosen someone else to do their landscapes is "we wish we would have had you do our yard." This is a compliment, of course, but it causes more concern and frustration than joy. To think that someone wasted their time and money on a poorly thought out and executed job is discouraging. The money initially saved by buying shoddy work is lost in the long run when the job has to be redone.

Often, our landscaping consists of cleaning up after others, replanting shrubs damaged by deer or sometimes starting over from the beginning. Just at the time when the landscape should be flourishing- it's a tangled jungle. We think that a homeowner would save time, money and heartache by having the job done right in the first place.

Did you know?

- All Landscapers are required to be licensed by the Arkansas State Plant Board?
- All Landscapers are required to have a business license with the State of Arkansas?
- All Landscapers are required to collect sales tax on plants, materials and labor performed in the course of their work?
- All businesses of more than three persons are required to carry Workman's Compensation Insurance?

We believe the proper balance of experience, plant knowledge, and proper certification will result in a better conceived and enduring garden or landscape, one which will prosper and satisfy for years.

Bonfire Begonias

Of all the new annuals in our trials this year one stands out as a favorite. A recent introduction from Bolivia, this Angel Wing Begonia has an unusual cascading growth habit. The three inch long leaves are narrow and give the impression of branches softly landing on dozens of wings. This is the backdrop for a stunning display of flowers. One-inch long flame-shaped flowers hang down from the branches creating a blazing mass of orange. The Bonfire Begonia flowers best in a sunny site and is happy in a hanging basket or on the edge of a mixed planter.

Bean There, Grown That

For anyone who cultivated a vegetable garden, it was a delicious year. Abundant rains and sunny days resulted in productive plots and bumper crops. If your garden didn't float away (we noticed some tomato plants grew oars), you are probably eating well this summer. So with a tip of



the straw hat to local storytellers, here is a tribute to growing beans in the Ozarks.

Growing beans this year was so easy, we just tossed some seeds at the soil and got out of the way. They grew so fast, they were six inches tall that afternoon and ready for picking the next day. While we were picking, they were growing so fast that by the time we got to the end of the row, we had to start at the beginning again. We made the mistake of planting too many: two rows, one of them two feet long and the other three feet long. We picked morning, noon and evening. At night we picked by moonlight.

There were beans everywhere. They were in the dining room, in the living room and in the den. We froze 'em, canned 'em, pickled 'em and strung them up for Labor Day decorations. We made bean bag chairs with the extras.

There were bean tunnels in the kitchen, through the dining room and into the pantry. We got rid of them any way we could. We gave so many to friends that we don't have friends anymore. We had to leave them on porches in the dark of night. One neighbor lost their two youngest for three days in a heap of beans. Those beans were BIG- it only took six to make a dozen.

Finally the sheriff came and hauled us away. We were charged with overcropping. After a day in jail we picked 36 more bushels. Bean futures collapsed and many growers had to forfeit their farms. Three corporations declared bankruptcy. Next year we're thinking of planting fewer seeds. Maybe we'll only put in 10 seeds, instead of the 24 we planted this year.

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Growing Garlic in the Fall

The cool nights and warm days of fall provide excellent conditions for fall crops. Lettuce, spinach, chard, radishes, carrots and peas all prosper in the late season garden. A few will grow through the winter and produce greens in the mild Ozark winter. Although most fall crops should be started by now, lettuce & spinach sneer at the cold and can still be seeded. A simple structure covered with clear plastic can extend the season another month or more.

Garlic is an easy and satisfying crop that should be planted in the fall. To start garlic, dig compost or old manure into an unused part of the garden. A sunny spot with nitrogen-rich, well-drained soil is an ideal location. Break apart a garlic bulb into individual cloves and

push cloves, point up, into the soil about 3 inches deep. The area can be lightly mulched after planting.

Your garlic will sprout almost immediately, the tops standing tall through the winter. In the spring, top dress with blood meal or more manure and mulch again to keep down weeds. Garlic should be harvested in June when the first tops start falling over. Allow bulbs to sit in a well ventilated area out of direct sun before storing in a cool, dry location.

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AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

To aide with your gardening endeavors, Bear Creek Nursery offers Top Quality Garden Soil custom made from fluffy sifted topsoil mixed generously with rich dark

compost. Seeds have never been more anxious to grow in this lovely mixture. Did I mention that there aren't any rocks?

Also, an extensive line of Nitron Organics is now available with new items targeted for fall planting and garden rejuvenation. These items make sure the fresh healthy food you grow receives all the yummy chemical-free nutrients they crave for over the top production.



Fall Hours ~ Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 ~5:00

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