

Gardening

What to do in your garden...

in May

- Plant Containers and Annuals
- Apply new mulch
- Apply weed barrier
- Prune Spring flowering shrubs after they bloom
- Apply fertilizer

Employee of the month

April 2006



Augie Rangel
Maintenance Supervisor

During the month of April, Augie went above and beyond the spring clean up expectations.

Augie's been a Member of Quinn Family Since: 1982

- Hot Buy! -

5' Techny Arborvitae

Regular: \$175

Sale Price: **\$100!**



Call today to reserve yours! Limited quantities.
Offer Valid Until: 6-20-2006

3860 W. 127th St. Alsip, IL 60803 Phone: 708-389-8119 www.williamquinnandsons.com



William Quinn & Sons Newsletter

May 2006

VOLUME 1

Plant This!

How we decide when, where, and what to plant.

FREQUENTLY, WE ARE asked, "When is the best time to plant?" and, "How do you know what to plant in different locations?" There are several factors that affect tree and shrub choice. First we consider the purpose of the plant – shade, privacy screen, bird habitat, flower display, fruit display, or fall leaf color. Trees have three categories: shade, ornamental, and evergreen. Maples, Ash, Linden, and Oaks are good choices for shade trees. Magnolias, Lilacs, and Crabapples are good ornamental flowering trees. Spruce, Pines, and Furs are evergreens that provide constant color throughout the entire year.



Once the purpose of planting is defined, location must be considered. Will the plant be located far enough away from the house, driveway and front entry? Long term growth must be considered; how large will the tree[s], or plant[s], grow? Imagine ten, twenty, or more years from now and make a decision as to whether or not it will still be a positive part of the landscape. A Blue Spruce at the corner of a walkway may seem like a great choice now, but ten years down the road it will probably overtake the concrete and make the walkway unpassable.

Another factor to consider is how well the new plant will fit in with the existing plants and structures on the property. Trees that become very large may dwarf a one story house, and shade out other plants that require sunlight. On the other hand, trees and shrubs that remain small can make a property appear bare and unappealing.

Watering needs must also be looked at. It is important to keep plants that require equal amounts of water within close proximity of one another. Too much, or too little, water will stunt plant growth, and possibly prove fatal. With this in mind, soil conditions also play a vital role in choosing plant material. Improperly drained soil will reduce plant performance and increase a plant's risk of contracting a disease. Soils with too high – or low – acidic (pH) levels can do the same.

So what's the moral of the story? **Think before you plant!** Certain plant material(s) may seem proper now, or look great on a store shelf, but that doesn't mean it's the right fit for your property.



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WILLIAM QUINN & SONS



CATHY'S CORNER

SPRING HAS OFFICIALLY arrived. The lilacs and pansies are in full bloom; and along with the spring flowers, the weeds are also in bloom! Last year's drought and mild winter allowed the weeds to continue to grow instead of dying off. Drought damaged turf areas are susceptible to weeds. Instead of spraying these areas with weed killer, we recommend slit seeding. In order to grow grass seed, you will have to decide between slit seeding or spraying weeds. This spring we have completed a record amount of slit seeding to drought damaged turf.

With the recent rain, a good deal of drought damaged turf areas have already recovered. Even though everything may look green and healthy, we're not out of the woods yet. Many young shrubs and perennials planted last year didn't survive the winter due to lack of snow cover. The total effects of last year's drought may not be apparent for another five years. A good example are evergreens that appeared healthy all winter, and suddenly lost all its needles in less than a week's time. You may see this type of drought damage on your own properties. We are continuing to monitor mature trees and shrubs for any signs of damage or insects. Most of the walk-thrus have been completed, and we are in the process of scheduling the landscape projects as the signed proposals are received. Please be patient, the recent rains have set us back a bit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

It's been great seeing everyone again. This is our favorite time of the year because we get a chance to catch up with what's new with everyone. Thanks again for your business, Mickey and I appreciate it.

- Cathy

The Ants Are Here!

THE ANNUAL ANT invasion has begun, and it's shaping up to be quite a battle this year! Every year, around Easter time, the social insects begin to scour for food to bring to their queen and young ones. These ants - which are typically red, brown, or black - do not pose a threat to humans or plant life.

Another species of ant, Carpenter ants, are notorious for turning beautiful trees into unsightly saw dust (from the inside out). These ants do not eat the wood, but rather chew it into dust in an effort to create tunnels for their colonies. Carpenter ants are among the largest in the Midwest, and range from 3/16 to 1/2 inches in length. They prefer to nest in moist wood and hollow spaces - trees,

doors, wood siding. They require special bait.

Some customers have expressed that the ant population has seemingly increased this year. This is due to an unreasonably dry and unpredictable winter. We've found the ants are mostly attracted to small hill areas and are destroying the roots of the grass.

To verify if a tree has become infested with carpenter ants, simply look at the base of the tree. Does it have layers of "saw dust" around the base? You probably have carpenter ants. If your invasion is not carpenter ants, we suggest using any common ant bait.

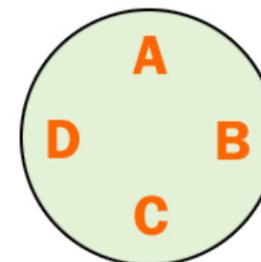
askouexpert

Q: How can I make my planter pots look professional for the summer?

Partial Sun Option



Plant Positioning



Full Sun Option



Plant Positioning



- A** Purple Fountain Grass **Qty: 1**
- B** Dwarf Ribbon Grass **Qty: 1**
- C** (Coleus) ' Dappled Apple' **Qty: 1**
- D** (Coleus) ' Religious Radish' **Qty: 1**

Soil Mixture

1/3 Garden Soil
1/3 Peat Moss
1/3 Perlite
Proper Drainage

- E** Lobelia 'Laguna Sky Blue' **Qty: 2**
- F** Nemesia 'Sunsatia Cranberry' **Qty: 2**
- G** Verbena 'Tukana White' **Qty: 2**

How to water your new plants

NEWLY PLANTED SHRUBS and trees require more water than those planted more than a year ago. If you'd like to see your plants [and trees] survive, we suggest the following:

During the first growing season, a small shrub requires approximately 4 to 6 gallons of water per week. Large shrubs will need as much as 10 gallons of water weekly. When in drought conditions, these watering rates should be slightly raised and properly timed. We suggest watering either early in the morning, or late in the evening, to avoid scorching the plant.

New plants will benefit – and grow – more if watered slowly, for longer periods of time, than if watered quickly for short periods of time. We suggest you turn your hose on to a "little more than a trickle," and let it run around the base of the shrub – or tree – for one half to one hour daily (if legally able to do so). For those of you who usually have summer watering restrictions, we suggest the same watering rate but for one to two hours when permitted.

