

Watering Guide

Employee of the month

July 2006

Jesse Barrera
Maintenance Supervisor



During the month of July,
Jesse exceeded our
expectations.

Jesse's been a Member of Quinn Family Since: 1998

- Quinn Nursery Special -

Rhododendron
Regular: \$110.00
Sale Price: **\$65.00!**



Call today to reserve yours! Limited quantities.
Offer Valid Until: 8-20-2006

For More Info Visit:
www.williamquinnandsons.com/special

Variable	Water	
	Less ←	→ More
Temperature	Colder	Warmer
Plant Maturity	Established	Newly Planted
Soil	Clay	Sand / Gravel
Drainage	Poor (low area)	Excessive (sloping area)
Exposure	Shade	Sand

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



William Quinn & Sons Newsletter

July 2006

VOLUME 1

Watering Tips

Due to the diverse soil and weather conditions gardeners in the Chicago area often get confused when attempting to properly regulate how much water they need to put on their lawns. The following tips should be used as a guideline only, due to our ever changing weather conditions.

The best time to water is early morning (before sunrise) when water pressure is greatest. Evaporation is minimal and the lawn drinks in most water at this time. Do not water in the evening because water will sit on the lawn and may cause disease, especially with the cool nights we've been having in June and early July. Never water in the heat of the day because the sun will evaporate the water before it can soak in. In order to water your lawn efficiently, you must provide the right amount of water, evenly distributed, in the right places and at the right time. This may seem like a lot of work, but once you realize your watering needs, the results are well worth your time and effort.

There are three things to consider when deciding how often you need to water. First and most important is the weather. Next the type of soil and the depth of the roots. When it's hotter, you'll need to water more frequently. In order to keep your lawn healthy during the summer months you will need to water every other day. The type of soil affects how much water is available for the grass to use. Heavy clay soils hold the most water, meaning you'll probably water less frequently. Sandy soils do not hold water well, so you'll water them more often. Lastly, deeper roots mean there is more available water for the grass and, therefore, you'll need to water less frequently. Think of your soil as a sponge that holds water for the grass. The deeper the sponge, the more water it can hold. It is wise to establish watering practices that encourage deep root growth. This allows lawns to go longer between watering which cuts down on disease potential and the amount of water you'll use.



How much water you use should only depend on the weather. Water should penetrate to the depth of the roots, which should be at least six inches. The next scheduled watering should occur when half the water has evaporated. If you allow too much water to leave the soil, your lawn will not be able to extract what's left for its own use, leading to stress. This makes the grass weak and susceptible to physical damage, insect damage, disease, and weeds. On the other hand, more lawns are harmed by too much water than not enough. Over watering causes vital nutrients to be flushed away and displaces oxygen from the soil. This leads to shallow roots and a lawn that is disease prone and weed infested.

During drought conditions, if the lawn can't get enough water, it will first go into a dormant stage, marked by a bluish color. If the drought continues until the soil water is fully used, death will result.

An easy way to determine how much you've watered is to place several empty straight-sided cans at various spots around your lawn. As you water, measure the depth of the water in the cans. You may also dig a handful of soil about 5 to 6 inches deep in the watered area. If the soil is moist you've watered about one inch.

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



Alsip, IL 60803
3860 W. 127th Street

WILLIAM QUINN & SONS



CATHY'S CORNER

I can't believe the 4th of July has come and gone. The summer is going by quickly. I hope everyone is taking time to enjoy the outdoors. Thanks to everyone who spent the day at the Botanic Garden. What a beautiful day we had touring the different gardens, and lunch was great! This newsletter includes a watering guide. Many times newly planted material doesn't make it due to simple watering mistakes. I hope you find the information helpful. If anyone has any questions about their soil type, please feel free to call.

The bugs are horrendous this year. Some species, such as mites, have become resistant to certain insecticides. As the needs have changed, we have been forced to alter the products we use. White flags will be placed on your property – usually near the entrance/exit, and the main corners – whenever spraying is being done. The diverse weather we've been having may cause the turf and shrubs to develop fungi. If anyone has any concerns, please let me know.

As some boards have changed over, I want to thank the landscape chairpersons that I have had the pleasure to work with. The best part of my job has been the great people I have become friends with. I look forward to working with the newly appointed landscape committees.

As always, thanks for all your business.

- Cathy

West Nile Virus

West Nile, as trendy a term as it is today, is still a threat to many Americans. Unfortunately, Illinois, in 2003, was one of the hardest hit states in terms of cases found of the West Nile Virus. Since that time, municipalities have begun taking pre-emptive measures to lessen the mosquito population – in effect lessening the chance of an individual contracting the West Nile Virus. There still is, however, no vaccine to cure or prevent the virus in humans. Here are a few tips to keep you free of the West Nile Virus:

- Spray clothing with insect repellent containing DEET or Permethrin
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week
- Avoid, if possible, being outside from dusk until dawn (as that is the time that mosquitoes are most active)
- Remove the "cups" from under your planter pots, as standing water will become a breeding nest for mosquitoes
- On a weekly basis, eliminate any standing water that collects on your property

- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors

I think I'm turning

Japanese Beetle!

Accidentally introduced in 1916 to the United States, the Japanese Beetle has become an unsightly nuisance to our horticulture. The adult beetle is usually one-half inch long, oval shaped, and has a shiny, metallic green body with copper brown wing covers. The Japanese Beetle has a one-year life cycle, beginning as a grub living in the soil. Adults emerge from the soil beginning late June lasting until August.

The Beetles feed during the day on over 300 different species of ornamental plants. They prefer roses, lindens, crabapples, elms, birch, and maples. Though the adult beetles only live for 30 to 45 days, they can do tremendous damage to plant material within that time. The result of a Japanese Beetle feeding resembles the horticultural form of your high school skeleton model.

The beetles are usually very easy to spot, as they feed in large groups (sometimes hundreds) on their preferred plant material. We recommend that you do not use commercial Japanese Beetle traps or lures as they tend to make your beetle problem worse.

Why?

Imagine a brand new restaurant opening in your neighborhood, and you're one of the first ones to patronize the establishment. The food is so good that you tell your friend, who tells a friend, who tells another friend. By the time you're ready to revisit the restaurant a week later, it's so packed that you decide to visit another restaurant in the same area. Same goes for the beetle traps – they become so crowded that the beetles begin to feast on plants surrounding the traps at a rate much greater than if there was no trap at all.



Slugs



A slug is caught feeding on a Hosta at night. The holes they leave are seen to the left of the photo.

If you wake up to find large, tattered holes in the leaves of plants in your garden, you may have a few slugs on your property. Since slugs are vulnerable to dehydration, they usually feed at night. During the day, they will hide under piles of leaves, debris, flat boards, and just about anything that they can get under to protect themselves.

A very non-conventional way of treating slugs is to dig a hole for a small saucer, or plate, and pour beer into the saucer. The slugs are attracted by the smell, fall in, and drown. Another method is to place flat boards in strategic areas to lure slugs during the daytime hours, and, while they're "hiding," dispose of them in a container.

