

# Fall Plantings

## Annuals and Perennials for fall

- Verbena
- Salvia
- Lobelia
- Phlox
- Osteospermum
- Carex
- Goldenrod
- Sedum
- Physostegia
- Cleome



Verbena



Goldenrod

## Employee of the month

July 2006

Juan Santos-Santos  
Landscape Supervisor



During the month of July, Juan's leadership skills as foreman outshined all the rest.

Juan's been a Member of Quinn Family Since: 2001

### - Quinn Nursery Special -

**Japanese Yew**

Regular: \$90

Sale Price: **\$55!**



Call today to reserve yours!  
Offer Valid Until: 9-20-2006

For More Info Visit:

[www.williamquinnandsons.com/special](http://www.williamquinnandsons.com/special)

3860 W. 127th St. Alsip, IL 60803 Phone: 708-389-8119 [www.williamquinnandsons.com](http://www.williamquinnandsons.com)

Alsip, IL 60803  
3860 W. 127th Street

  
**WILLIAM QUINN & SONS**

# William Quinn & Sons Newsletter

August 2006

VOLUME 1

## The Best Time to Seed is NOW!

August and September is the perfect time to begin thinking about next year's lawn. Establishing your turf areas now gives the lawn a better chance to withstand next summer's heat, humidity, and potential drought. Current warm days, cool nights, and expected fall rains favor turf establishment. Also fewer weed seeds germinate during the fall which means less competition for new grass to grow.

For existing areas where decent grass is present and weeds are few you may overseed. Drop spreaders, or slit seeding, can be used to evenly distribute seed in large areas. Thoroughly water the entire area, and seed should germinate within 7 days. For areas with more weeds than desirable grass, it's wise to start from scratch. Round-up is a great way to clean up the entire area. The chemical will kill any non-woody plant it touches, but only what it touches. It isn't absorbed by the roots; the entire plant, including the root system, is usually killed. Death usually occurs within days.

After spraying, wait 7 to 14 days and then remove the dead grass and weeds. For big areas, a sod cutter is recommended. Small areas can be raked out. Make sure any large clumps of dead grass are removed.

Top soil or a turf enhancer can be spread on top of the seed. Be sure to use a good grade of seed. Some of the seed sold at garden centers is only made up of annual grasses that will not come back in the Spring. A good seed mixture should include at least 50% Kentucky Bluegrass in the mix. Avoid Bermuda, Bent Grasses, and Fescue grasses. Be sure not to over water your new seed before – or after – it germinates.

On days when there are cool, damp nights, the seed will require less water. Shady areas may only need water once a week. Now is also a good time to start thinking about fall plantings for trees and shrubs. September and October may be dry but the temperature usually doesn't reach above 80°. Watering new plant material isn't as difficult to keep up with as in the hot summer months.

Many garden centers will start marking down the prices of their merchandise, especially perennials in late September

and October. Fall is a good time to plant perennial for spring blooms. Autumn planting has been recommended because fall's steadily cooling temperatures allow roots to settle and grow without the stress of supporting new leaves and flowers.



3860 W. 127th St. Alsip, IL 60803 Phone: 708-389-8119 [www.williamquinnandsons.com](http://www.williamquinnandsons.com)



# CATHY'S CORNER

I can't believe that Labor Day is almost here. Don't worry, there's still plenty of time to get out and enjoy the nice weather. The days are getting shorter, and before you know it, we'll be wearing winter coats again! Now is a great time to rejuvenate your garden and container plantings. Garden centers are gearing up for the fall season. If you're considering mums, be aware that the lighter colors – such as white and yellow – don't last as long as the purples, maroons, reds, and oranges. The sub-zero pansies are also a great choice for border plants and containers. They will not survive the winter in containers and won't do well if we have a dry winter. Perennials are a good choice for containers, and they should be planted in the ground before a hard freeze if you intend on them coming back next year.

Perennials and roses should not be fertilized this late in the season. This is the time of year when your plants need to "slow down" and prepare for the cooler weather. Fall is also a good time to plant trees and shrubs. Anyone interested in fall plantings should call to schedule a walk-thru. Many times spring walk-thrus are delayed due to the weather. It's easier to identify plants and trees this time of the year that may need to be replaced next spring when they still have leaves on them.

Many times I get feedback from customers – both positive and negative. If you have any concerns regarding the maintenance crews' performance please call. On the other hand, I would appreciate any positive feedback regarding the foreman and crew that maintain your property. It's always nice to recognize the men who have gone above and beyond their duties. As always, thank you for your business. Mickey and I appreciate it!

- Cathy

## What are Leaf Galls?

The unsightly bumps [pictured right] you may find on your tree(s) are nothing more than Leaf Gall. Galls develop from plant tissues that have been irritated by a parasitic organism. And, while this may sound like a big problem, galls are more unattractive than they are harmful. In fact, horticultural scholars suggest that galls rarely, if ever, affect the health of a plant. The problem is purely aesthetic.

The most common found Gall-producing insects are: aphids, midges, wasps and mites. By the time a Gall is noticed on a tree, the insect is already protected from any chemical application. It is nearly impossible to treat large established trees.



Leaf gall on a Maple

# Fall Planting Advice

Come September, many of us hate our gardens: plants in the wrong place, plants that didn't perform as expected, plants that are overgrown and straggly, faded brown, mildewed and chewed up. The problem is that we still have two months or more to go.

Don't worry, autumn could bring out the best in your garden. There's a lot more to choose from than chrysanthemums. There are two types of kale to choose from: edible and ornamental. The ornamental kale is strictly bred for appearance, and is much more showy in the garden and/or container. Pansies have come a long way in the last 10 years.

The sub-zero, or icicle, pansies go in the ground in September and blooms again in the spring (weather permitting). When most annuals are past their prime, the Osteospermum starts to shine. With a wide variety of colors now available, this is a great choice for fall containers.



An Aster

Perennial choices for fall color include blue salvias, asters and mums. Blue salvias are becoming one of the hottest perennials on the market, they bloom all summer and peak during autumn months. There



Orange Icicle Pansy

are a variety of different overwinter styles to choose from, and Asters and mums are popular fall plantings. When purchasing mums, be careful to choose only the perennial types if you want them to come back next year. Some mums and asters you see at the store that are inexpensive, and in small containers, will not overwinter.

## Fleas

We know many of you are animal lovers with at least one - sometimes two or three - dog(s) in the household. Fleas, unfortunately, are common this time of the year. That is why a few fleas that may have made their way into your house have largely multiplied, and turned into a major problem.

Flea eggs hatch merely 10 days after being laid, and the flea's entire lifecycle takes about 6 weeks in the



home environment. Fleas usually like to lay their eggs in the carpeting, upholstery, pet bedding, and other areas where the larvae will be able to feed on debris.

Fortunately, pet owners can usually successfully treat a flea infestation by using a flea and tick preventative on their pets. Flea collars are also available, but be aware that your pet may be allergic to the chemical applied to them. For non-pet owners, aerosol sprays are available can be used on all carpet and upholstery biweekly for six weeks (once every two weeks). Once sprayed, allow the solution to dry for 30 minutes then vacuum the areas and quickly dispose of the vacuumed materials.

