

# TREE & SHRUB CARE

A DIVISION OF MEEHAN'S LAWN SERVICE, INC.

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## Late Spring Tree & Shrub Care Visit

### TODAY'S VISIT

\_\_\_\_\_ Orthene WP insecticide + Rubigan fungicide.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bi-sect insecticide + Banner Maxx + Rubigan Fungicides.

I have decided to go back to one of my old favorite (but stinky) insect controls Orthene. I periodically have to rotate products to get good control. Applying the same product for insects over and over can cause pests to be come resistant, so apologies for the smell! Today I will be applying controls for many different pests that are active in late spring. Some common pests I'll be watching for are aphids, sawfly larvae, leafminers, scale, and lace-

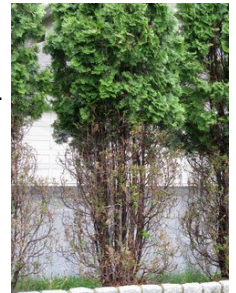
bugs. I'll be treating crabapples for scab. The 2 excellent fungicides on this disease worked so well I will continue to use them. I am again using the real deal products...not the generic brands. It costs more but I was not happy with their generic performance. **This will keep scab to a minimum, and so far the weather is cooperating.** In June crabapples loose some of their leaves. This is normal. If you're not sure check the leaves spotted leaves = scab, non-spotted = Normal.

Who knows what pests will be an issue this season after the second and record setting brutal, never-ending winter we had!

### Deer

I know! I'm always complaining about the deer, but you know, eventually there are going to be NO plants safe from the deer. I should have known, but never expected to see so many arborvitae (like below) completely defoliated this past winter. Even some of the cultivars like the green giant that are supposed to be deer resistant were eaten beyond hope. I very strongly recommend anyone with arborvitae, or any other susceptible plants use repellents or netting this coming fall and winter. **Bird netting wrapped up to about 6 feet around the plants will deter most of the deer damage. The nice thing about the bird netting is that it is virtually invisible, so it will not look unsightly all winter.**

Columnar Junipers are a reasonable alternative although they have problems of their own, like splitting out when heavy snow falls on them.



### Creeping phlox dieback

Have you ever wondered why a year or two after you plant Creeping phlox large sections of the planting begin to die? I recently learned that there is a parasitic nematode that attacks the stems and causes significant dieback and plant death. Nematodes are microscopic round worms that enter the plants through the roots, natural openings like stomata and damaged stems. They can move within the plant feeding along the way. This causes distorted stems and as an infestation becomes severe plant dieback occurs. There are no chemical controls available in the landscape aside from soil sterilization. Even worse, the larval nematodes can survive



in a dried state for two or more years becoming active when conditions favor growth. Because they are microscopic it is very difficult to monitor infestations. Always look for healthy plants free of dieback and remove any plants from the landscape that do not look healthy. Monitoring and sanitation are the only real options for managing these tine invaders.



# Spring Gardening Checklist

**Mulching,** Most people do their mulching this time of year. The type of mulch you use is dependent on the look you want. I recommend good organic mulch that looks nice and improves the soil. Please remember 3” maximum!

**Dead Heading,** Remove spent flowers from your perennials and flowering shrubs soon after they finish flowering. Why? Removing spent flowers reduces unwanted spreading by seed and puts strength back into the plant instead of into seed production.

**Pruning,** Hold off pruning those shrubs until the spring flush of growth has subsided. Please! If you have pine or holly do not use power shears, chewed up leaves make the plants look ratty. Remember, Junipers should NOT be pruned beyond a green growing point. If this is done the plants WILL NOT recover and plants must be replaced!

**Make a Compost bin,** Even the smallest yard has room for a compost bin. It can be as simple as a small pile behind the garage or a fancy composter from the hardware store. Compost enriches the soil and by composting, the material doesn't end up in the landfill. Layers of green material (nitrogen) and brown material (carbon) make for a quick working pile that will give black gardener's gold in a very short time. Screened compost can be spread like mulch, or worked into the soil. Many plants like rhubarb, peonies and other long lived perennials grow best when given plenty of compost.

**Deer problems,** Antlered rats have become an ever worsening problem. I finally decided to give up on the repellents. If you are finding repellents don't work the way they used to, visit [www.deerbusters.com](http://www.deerbusters.com). They have a fence that is reasonably priced and blends into the landscape without destroying its beauty.

## Black knot of plum

Black knot has made a comeback on plum trees in the area. Trees stressed by the past two winters have killed many plums and those remaining are developing black knot. I do treat with fungicides to help prevent black knot. Here is what the OSU fact sheet states:

It is important to prune at least 2–4 inches (5–10 cm) below each knot because the fungus grows beyond the edge of the knot itself. If pruning is not possible because knots are present on major scaffold limbs or the trunk, they can be removed by cutting away the diseased tissue down to healthy wood and out at least 1/2 inch (1 cm) beyond the edge of the knot. Fungicides can offer protection against black knot, but are unlikely to be effective if pruning and sanitation are ignored.



## Clematis Wilt



I have been asked a few times about problems with Clematis dieback, and had no idea what the problem could be. I was to a seminar in March and learned there are a number of fungi that cause Clematis wilt. This disease causes the infected stems to wilt and turn brown or black while other unaffected stems grow and flower normally. The various pathogens that cause the damage harbor in the soil near the crown and when a stem is just starting growth or has been damaged by wind or other factors, enter the stem and block the vascular system preventing nutrient flow. This is why the stems first wilt then die. **What can be done?** 1) Fungicides are generally not very effective because different fungi can cause the same symptoms, and they are soil borne. 2) Plant the crown deep to promote more sprouting and more stem growth. That way if a stem becomes infected the entire plant can survive. 3) Improve air circulation around the base of the plant by trellising the vines and removing old and dead stems from around the base. I learned a lot about this disease, and hope this helps you with growing Clematis. I do not grow them because of my Deer Problem.



## I can easily be contacted!

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(comes right to my phone!)

**Remember I'm on the road most of the day. I'm usually in the office from about 2:30-4:30. A daytime phone number is great too! Helps prevent Phone tag!**