

TREE & SHRUB CARE

A DIVISION OF MEEHAN'S LAWN SERVICE, INC.

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Late Summer Tree & Shrub Care Visit

TODAY'S VISIT

_____ Horticultural oil +
Hexygon miticide.
_____ Bi-Sect Insecticide +
Rubigan fungicide.

Today I inspected your landscape and applied controls for, well, basically whatever pests I found! I have been seeing a few remaining beetles, both Japanese and Viburnum leaf beetle, as well as several species of Scale, Lacebugs. Normally fungicides are not needed this time of year, especially for foliar diseases, since the leaves of deciduous plants will be falling within a few weeks. I am also looking for Spider Mites at this time of year. Mites are

worse this year than they have been in the last several. Considering the rain we've had I am rather surprised! See the article below for more information on Spider mites as well as plain old spider webs.

Japanese beetles were bad this season, if you opted NOT to have the grub prevention done for your lawn, please keep a close eye on any browning areas this fall. I strongly suspect grubs will be a significant problem. There is a lot more information about goings on in landscapes around the area. Please read over the rest of the newsletter, and of course call me any with questions.

Saskatoons!

Many of you have this shrub/small tree in your landscape, in landscaping we know it as Serviceberry. Early spring white flowers followed by purplish berries in June. I recently heard an article about this fruit on NPR, and that it is now being commercially grown for its tasty berry. I have been collecting Serviceberries from landscapes for years, and shared some of the jam with those of you kind enough to let me pick. The fruit is related to apples and are sweet with a flavor similar to blueberries but a bit seedier. They make a wonderful jam and there are now cultivars that have smaller or no seeds. Try them if you see them, that is if you can beat the birds to them!



Spider Mites

Worst year for mites I've seen in 10 years. I treated many landscapes for mites with the last treatment. Those landscapes I have been back to since show good control and unless the bushes were badly damaged they are looking pretty good. As I have said before treating when there are no signs of mites only makes for more trouble because spraying also often kills predatory insects that keep the mites in check. Mites reproduce faster (a lot faster) than rabbits! I will be checking and treating for mites again with this visit, however, if you see your burning bushes dropping leaves and turning an off color (especially on the back side) give me a call for treatment. If there is a bad infestation you will see webbing with moving dots between the leaves like the picture below left. There are also a



lot of spiders making webs in shrubs these webs tend to be much larger often with a hole in the center for the spider to live, and NO dots (which are the mites) These are beneficial and eat mites as well as mosquitoes and other insects, so Give me a call if you see or suspect mites, and leave the spiders to eat the bad guys!



Some of the Worlds Weirdest!

Most of you know by now that I'm really into weird plants, I found a few that I thought deserved some press. A couple of these I grow, others I can only dream of growing, or perhaps not. First on our list is *Hydnora* (no



common name) a parasite from Africa that steals the nutrients it needs from other plants. The only time it can be seen is when it flowers. The smell of fresh feces attracts dung beetles which are trapped until they have collected enough pollen to carry to the next fragrant flower. Next is the Australian *Gympie gympie*, Looks benign, yes? It's related to Stinging nettle, this plant has microscopic hypodermic needles covering the entire plant that inject one of the most poisonous plant toxins known and can cause months of excruciating pain. Not something I want to grow! *Devil's Claw*, is a really cool plant. The entire plant is covered in sticky hairs and is a proto-carnivore (evolving into a carnivorous plant) pretty pink flowers are followed by these wicked seed pods. Buffalo and other large animals got these stuck to their hooves and as they moved around the seeds were spread. Yes, these are from my garden (grin). *Welwitschia*, Octopus of the Namib desert. This plant can live to be 2000 years old. What's really weird about it? It is thought to be the link between conifers and modern flowering plants. It also has only 2 leaves it's entire life, they simply continue to grow in length. There is no other plant on the planet that grows in this manner.

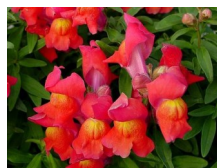


My Favorite Deer resistant Plants.

Every year the deer problem seems worse. I thought I would share some of my favorite deer resistant plants. Some are easy to find, others may require a little hunting. I have NEVER had deer do more than taste these plants, after which they are completely left alone. (top to bottom, left



then right) **Lenten or Christmas rose**. Evergreen perennial, blooms white, rose, pink, green in late winter and early spring. **Peony**, an old fashioned long lived favorite. In some areas deer have nibbled them, but at my place they have never been touched. **Annual Vinca**. Native to Africa has milky sap that is toxic to eat. Blooms all summer until cold weather in white, hot pink, red, purple. Delay planting these until the soil warms, they don't like cold roots. **Annual Snapdragon**. Everyone knows this plant, I especially like the dwarf varieties. It is often perennial. **African Prickly Daisy**. A new addition to my garden. Interesting lavender purple flowers on a prickly plant, and hardy even from Africa!



My Tree is Wilting!

Wilting and dieback of trees can be caused by a number of factors, the most obvious is lack of water, by why, we've had rain? Perhaps the roots are damaged from root rot, or girdling, perhaps there is a pathogen like Verticillium or Phytophthora causing the problem. It's hard to say. I often see trees/shrubs leaf out and look healthy, then suddenly are dead. I had this happen to a Japanese maple, one week it looked great, then next it was dead! The worst part is diagnosing the actual cause. Some diseases have tell-tale symptoms others do not. Diagnosing root problems and girdling is also a crap shoot because I cannot dig the tree up to inspect the roots and often end up in some cases sending samples to OSU for diagnosis and often the results I get back are ambiguous at best. It has been one of those years for tree wilting and dieback.



I can easily be contacted!

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Remember I'm on the road most of the day. I'm usually in the office from about 2:30-4:00. A daytime phone number is great too! Helps prevent Phone tag!