



TREE & SHRUB CARE

A DIVISION OF MEEHAN'S LAWN SERVICE, INC.

www.meehanslawnservice.com

6344 EASTLAND ROAD • BROOK PARK, OHIO 44142-1302 • (440) 243-8277

Fall Deep Root Fertilization

TODAY'S VISIT

- ✓ 20-20-20 Plus Micronutrients.

Today I fertilized your landscape plants. Throughout the season when I am treating pest problems the treatments are applied only where needed. Not so with fertilization. All trees & shrubs are treated except large shade trees and roses. Large trees can generally fend for themselves. Roses start new growth after fertilization. That is not a good thing this time of year. Fertilizing in fall promotes healthier roots and root growth. Most woody plants do most root growth after the tops go dormant. Roots will absorb and store the nutrients for even growth and color next spring without excessive top growth.

Are we in for another bad winter?

Last winter was hard to take, based on the acorn drop and the early fall color after a late start to the season, I'm a little concerned that we are in for another nasty one, but what a year 2014 was! A lot of the pest issues that were a buzz during this season, were the ash borers killed? How about the bagworms? You remember those articles in the paper and on the talk shows. Well bagworms were not killed, in fact I think they were worse this year than in past years. Emerald ash borers were not significantly harmed...I got bit by one while hanging laundry. I



think the only insect that was "beaten back" by the winter was the Azalea lacebug. I saw very few, but lacebugs on other species of plants were just as rampant. Then again, when I first got into this business in 1992, I rarely saw azalea lacebugs on landscapes. Scale insects of Magnolia and other plants were also bad. Weather conditions seemed to favor pest problems except perhaps mites. The regular rains kept Mites from doing much damage.



The early spring heavy rains also made for a serious disease problem mostly anthracnose and mildew. I will say that the rains came before the crabapples leafed out and the initial infection period for apple scab was fairly dry so crabapples got far less scab than I have seen in other seasons with wet springs. **Think Spring! I'll see you then!**

Ginkgo, Beautiful pest free indestructible tree.

Ginkgo biloba is known from the fossil record 270 million years ago! It is a Gymnosperm more closely related to pines and other conifers than it is to flowering plants. It can tolerate wind, snow, pollution and is virtually immune to insect and disease attack. A tree far better suited to Northeast Ohio than Bradford pear. Here are some interesting facts:

- The male Ginkgo has the largest motile sperm on the planet.
- The female tree produces a full crop of seeds whether or not they are pollinated. pollination occurs shortly before the arils (fruits) ripen (a big waste of energy).
- The seed within the aril is edible in small quantities and used medicinally in Asia.
- The fleshy aril that surrounds the seed contains Urushiol, the same compound in poison ivy that causes a rash, not only that, the aril contains Butyric acid causing the aril to smell of rancid butter or vomit. Remember this if you're around Progressive field, someone erred and planted mostly female trees around the stadium.
- I recommend Ginkgo! Most cultivars for sale are male therefore no stinky fruits. It's a great tree and can live to be 2500 years old! Perhaps you have a place for one?



Deer Repellents are for Everyone!

This past winter I saw more deer and rabbit damage than I've ever seen, including in my own yard. There used to be places like Cleveland and along the lake in Bay Village where I never saw deer, now there is nowhere where deer (and rabbits) are not damaging landscapes. I have updated (again) my special newsletter about deer and the best way to deter and repel them. I have left a copy of this with you today with some ideas on the products I've found most effective as well as plants that I have seen around the area as well as plants in my own yard that the deer do not tend to eat. Remember, that deer in different neighborhoods have learned different tastes, but based on what I've seen I've included the best options for this area. **Don't forget to protect tree trunks against bucks rubbing the bark off too!**



Stone mulch

If you have stone for mulch, I will be soil drenching as opposed to deep root feeding your plants. Why? It's also hard on my arms trying to jab through the stone. I do apologize, but stone is just too hard on me and my equipment. In stones there generally no other plants to "steal" the nutrients, so Drench it is in stone.



How did I do in 2014?

I always appreciate your feedback on what you thought of the service I provided this past season. My department has grown a lot in the last couple of years, in the next year or two I may need to have a helper like I did before the recession. I did my best to talk to any customers that were home when I was doing treatments or service calls. The new smartphone I have also helped this year (I think) because anyone who emailed their request came right to my phone. Those who called the office had their info text directly to me. This allowed me to handle service requests as fast as possible. I also appreciate the compliments I get on my newsletter, if you missed one check it out on our web site. **Jot a note on your payment stub or send me an email with any concerns or compliments. This helps me provide better service!**

After 18 years I am also getting a new spray unit and a new truck a Ford F-350 I think, and the spray unit I designed myself. I'm already looking forward to the 2015 season, see you then!



I can easily be contacted!

Office: 440-243-8277

Toll Free

1-888-900-LAWN (5296)

Email:

fred@meehanslawnservice.com

I'm on the road most of the day. I'm usually in the office from about 2:30-4:00. A day-time phone number helps prevent Phone tag! Or better yet email...comes right to my phone!

Fall Home invaders! (Taken from the Buckeye Yard/Garden Line)

Now that fall is officially in the air, a number of insects are ready to make their way into Ohio homes. The recent spate of cool temperatures have caused some to already start practicing a little breaking-and-entering! Common fall home invaders include: **The BOXELDER BUG**, **HACKBERRY PSYLLIDS**, the notorious **MULTICOLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLE**; and the becoming-more-notorious **BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG**, I even have **WASPS** and **FLIES** that take up residence in my attic.

The best way to deal with these fall home invaders is to prevent them from entering. Effective insect exclusion = finding and sealing-off entry points such as cracks around windows, doors, or utility pipes. Poorly attached home siding and rips in window screens provide an open invitation. Check homes for unprotected vents, such as bathroom and kitchen vents, or unscreened attic vents. In the attic, look for openings around soffits. The large opening created by a worn-out exterior door sweep may as well have a flashing neon "Enter Here" sign hanging above it. Leave the garage door up? Say hello to little friends! An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of bugs.

Once inside the home, the best method to manage invader is to "Hooverize'em." Swatting or smashing these insects can cause more damage since fluids inside their bodies can leave permanent stains. Also, mashing multicolored Asian lady beetles and brown marmorated stink bugs can release a lingering eau de bug; lady beetles have stinky blood and stink bugs are called stink bugs for a reason! A vacuum cleaner is the preferred method for giving the invader the bums rush. make certain the vacuum cleaner is a "by-pass" type, meaning refuse is not passed through an impeller. Otherwise, you will create a horrifying and possibly stinky bug-blender.