

# Going Green

Monthly Newsletter From Your Friends at Prestige One Landscaping!



**Greetings from Roye**

Volume 2, Issue 7  
July, 2008

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## Thought for the Month...

In this world, there is always danger for those who are afraid of it.

~George Bernard Shaw



"You may think smoking is cool now, but when you start huffing and puffing and you're not even trying to blow a pig's house in..."

## Landscaping Tips to Beat The Heat

Now that summer is in full bloom, the idea of working in the garden is probably the last thing on your mind. Fortunately, there are ways to build a summer-friendly landscape that's not only aesthetically pleasing, but it will also help you stay cool in these hot summer months.

### Think Low-Maintenance

There are a number of ways to create a low-maintenance landscape, which means much less work for you.

Purpleleaf Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei* var. *coloratus*) for example, tolerates overly wet or dry areas as well as poor soil. It will even grow in the shade. The Stella d'Ora Daylily (*Hemerocallis* x 'Stella d'Ora') is another versatile plant as well as Big Blue Liriope (*Liriope muscari* 'Big Blue'). Other good heat-tolerant choices include Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus Quinquefolia*), Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*) and Liatris (*Liatris spicata*).

Another good way to turn your landscape into a low-maintenance gardener's dream is to add some xeriscaping elements. Xeriscaping is simply the use of drought tolerant plants and hardscape elements so that you can spend less time tending to your landscape and more time enjoying it. Drought-tolerant plants include Hens and Chicks, Missouri Primrose, wildflowers, Prairie Dropseed, Autumn Joy Sedum and of course, Prickly Pear Cactus.

### Fill Your Space With Hardscape

For hardscape elements, think of ways you could use your landscape as an extension of your home. For example, an outdoor kitchen or eating area would make entertaining a snap. Likewise an extended patio, a gazebo or pergola and even a quaint gardening shed or playhouse can drastically reduce the amount of mowing and watering you need to do.

In addition to these structures, you can also decrease your maintenance by installing walkways or steps, rock gardens and paved seating areas, all of which not only reduce the amount of time you spend on upkeep but also add beautiful functionality to your yard.

### Just Add Water

Imagine a grand fountain or a koi pond as a landscape centerpiece. These elements serve two purposes: the first is that they bring noticeable beauty to even the most simple landscaping plans and the second is that they take up considerable space. You'll also notice that water elements add a soothing sensation to your yard, something even the hottest of days can't take away.

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**A Free Plant Package with the Installation of a New Watergarden.**

## ***I'd Love To Hear From You!!***

Whether you'd like to discuss your property or additional services or just want to stop by and say "Hi," we'd love to hear from you...

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### ***Leave 401(k) Alone***

Though the stock market figures haven't been that encouraging, don't panic. A solid retirement account will be yours if you just stay calm. Here's why. Your 401(k) investment is generally placed in diversified mutual funds that will moderate any temporary losses, say financial advisors writing in Newsweek. The stock market always rises over the long term so you will rack up significant gains in years to come. It will happen. In the meantime, look for opportunities that may be available in a slow economy. If you get a good deal on a house, it could be worth much more in a few years and could be worth twice as much in 10 years.

### ***A Bit of Laughter...***

There are several universal truths in life:

- If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you haven't tried
- If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip
- No husband has ever been shot while doing dishes
- Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it
- As soon as you make ends meet, they move the ends

*(continued from Page 1)*

#### **Cycle Your Watering**

For the areas you do need to water, try adding an extra day between watering (subject to your local restrictions of course). While some of your more tender plants may need more frequent splashes, most lawns can tolerate an extra day. In addition, when you do water do so in short cycles in the early morning hours instead of one big soaking. This allows the soil to soak up the water better, giving your lawn more drink for your efforts.

#### **Aerate Your Soil**

This is a really simple way to improve your lawn as well as increase the soil's ability to absorb the water. Compacted soils tend to repel water so while you may be pouring it on, you're not really doing much good.

Want to talk about your landscaping issues? Give us a call – we'd love to help you find the perfect landscaping theme for your property.

## **A Free Plant Package with the Installation of a New Watergarden .**

### ***Do You Want To Win a Dew Drop Rain Gauge?***



#### **Take my trivia challenge and you could win!**

This is one of my favorite sections. Each month I'll give you a new trivia question. The first five people to call my office with the correct answer will win a Dew Drop rain gauge. Take your best guess, then call me at 816-796-7548.

Here's this month's trivia challenge:

#### **Q. What is the name of Donald Duck's girlfriend?**

A) Dora B) Daisy C) Delinda D) Daffy

Call me right now with your answer! 816-796-7548

**Note: Limit one gift per winner per year**

#### **Congratulations to last month's winners!**

***Kim Pace and Georgia Wiley each won a 4-6" Butterfly Koi***

Clive Cussler is the author of the Dirk Pitt series.

### ***Thanks For The Kind Words***

***"We are very pleased with the results, the wall and plantings look great."***

***Maureen S-R.***

## ***Energy Efficient Tax Credit***

The Department of Energy reports that more families are showing an interest in zero-energy homes, a design meant to produce as much electricity as it uses. The Energy Policy Act provides a tax credit of up to 30 percent of the system's cost up to a maximum of \$2000 when purchasing a new home with solar equipment. It's part of a nationwide effort to reduce home energy consumption. For more information about the tax credits, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## ***Treasury Redeems Money***

The U.S. Treasury Department's Mutilated Currency Division has a job that's often smelly and more challenging than a huge crossword puzzle. You probably haven't heard about it unless you have lost cash, usually through fire, flood, exposure to chemicals, rodent or insect infestation or deterioration from being buried. Each year, the Treasury exchanges unusable currency for new money. It fields about 30,000 claims and redeems about \$30 million every year to some very relieved people. In one case, a farmer dropped his wallet in a field and a cow ate it. He slaughtered the cow and sent its stomach to the Mutilated Currency Division. Though identifying the money was not a pleasant task, the farmer got his \$600 back in the form of a check.

In another case, a dog had eaten a lady's money, and it ultimately came out the other end in pieces. Identifying the pieces was smelly detective work, but she got her money back. Money buried in a dry climate can petrify, making it difficult to pry apart to determine denominations. Money buried in wet climates can turn into a mass resembling oatmeal. The Treasury has tactics to identify the bills and will redeem them. Sometimes the sender has to sign an affidavit for a claim. Note that if you have currency that is damaged, but more than half of the dollar is intact, any bank will exchange it for new money.

## ***Congratulations To Our Client Of The Month!***

Every month, we choose a very special *Client of the Month*. It's my way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks" to those who support Prestige One Landscaping with referrals, word of mouth and repeat business. Watch for your name here in an upcoming month - you might be the next *Client of the Month*!

This month's Client of the Month is

***John & Judy Prada***

## ***Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!***

Thanks to YOU our business is growing! There's no better compliment we can receive than a positive referral from a valued client. We are truly grateful for the trust and confidence that so many of you have expressed.

If you know a friend, neighbor, or family member who may be considering the services we offer - it would be the highest compliment to refer them to us. I'll make sure they get extra special attention and care. Or, if there're any additional services that we may provide for you, please let us know. Instead of growing our business from the outside, we prefer to pay closer attention to our existing clients and their referrals.

## ***Space Under Your Vanity?***

Martha Stewart recommends adding extra storage by outfitting the cabinets with rollout wire trays like those used in kitchens. They provide easy access to items used at the same time, such as those for shaving or hairstyling.

## ***Landscaping Question Corner...***

**Q. The leaves on my shrubs look "burned". What's going wrong?**

**A.** Burnt or "scorched" leaves typically indicate that the plant is stressed which is often the result of too much or too little water and/or fertilizer.

Established plants such as trees and shrubs typically do fine with a soaking about once every week to week and a half. If your shrubs are younger, less established plants, try watering about once every three to four days.

You'll also want to add a generous layer of mulch around the base to discourage evaporation and add nutrients to the soil.

Fertilizers should be chosen wisely as some are not meant for certain plants. In addition, you do need to read the directions before applying. Some fertilizers are intended to be used during colder months, meaning that a hefty dose during the middle of summer could seriously damage your plants. Also, be sure to water thoroughly after you fertilize to ensure all those nutrients are mixed into the soil.

### **Do You Have a Question You Want Answered?**

I love hearing from all my good friends and clients who enjoy reading my monthly letter. And I'm always looking to answer pressing questions you might have about anything relating to landscaping. If you have a question, please give us a call. Perhaps I'll feature you in a future issue!



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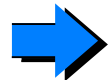
### ***Famous Birthdays in July***

Does your birthday fall in July?  
Did you know you share it with  
some pretty famous people?  
Here's a few names you might  
know with July birthdays:

- Dan Aykroyd, 1952
- Huey Lewis, 1950
- Burt Ward, 1945
- Tom Hanks, 1956
- Anjelica Huston, 1951
- Kim Alexis, 1960
- **Bill Kennedy, 1966**
- Will Farrell, 1967
- Kim Carnes, 1946
- Matt LeBlanc, 1967
- Kevin Spacey, 1959
- Hilary Swank, 1974
- Don Henley, 1947

***Happy Birthday!***

### ***What's Inside...***



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- ⇒ *Leave Your 401(k) Alone*
- ⇒ *Burnt leaves? Discover why in our Landscaping Question Corner!*
- ⇒ *Take the trivia challenge and you could win a Dew Drop Rain Gauge!*
- ⇒ *Are YOU our client of the month???*
- ⇒ *And More!!*

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