



THE MEYER THYMES

An Investment That Grows



Gardening Tips for Our Customers

Spring / Summer 2008

West Chicago, IL

**Current Hours
Mon-Sat 9-5**

**Open Sun 10-4
Through June**



Welcome fellow gardeners! Late season snowstorms. Near record-breaking snowfall. Heavy rains and extended cold. Are you as ready for warmth and sunshine as we are? Digging in our nursery was delayed for a period this year due to wintry conditions, but the garden center is filled up with plants that are ready to take home.

We have created this newsletter for you, the busy gardener, in mind. We have tried to address frequently asked questions and what's going on in your garden to help make your busy life a little easier. If there is a topic you would like addressed, please e-mail us at meyergc@aol.com.

We look forward to seeing you! Happy Gardening!!!

From Meyer Landscaping, Inc.

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GO GREEN – PLANT TREES

By Mary Meyer

The buzz word in the media today is Global Warming. What better way to help cool our planet than by planting a tree???? Here are some flowering trees that we grow that look great in anyone's landscape.

MAGNIFICANT MAGNOLIAS

After a long, cold snowy winter, there is nothing like the smell of spring in the air. Magnolias are one of the first trees to bloom with a fragrant bounteous bouquet. They come in many varieties; from tall to short with white, pink, or purple flowers.

Join a Local Garden Club!!!

The Winfield Area Gardeners (WAG) meet The 1st Tuesday of every month

The West Chicago Garden Club Meets the 4th Thursday of every month.

For more details, see www.bwdarrah.com/wcgarden



Royal Star Magnolia is a wonderful small tree or large shrub to plant in a small landscape. Its height reaches 10' with a spread 10'. The aroma of its double white fragrant flower is simply heavenly.

Merril Magnolia is a larger variety that is best suited for a more open space. Its height reaches 40' tall with a spread of 30' wide. This tree with its large white starry like flowers looks grand against a dark background of a tall house or building.



Merril Magnolia

Leonard Messel Magnolia is a medium sized tree that reaches a height of 15-20' with a spread of 20' that can be planted in a small or large landscape, in a group or by itself. This Magnolia sports colorful pinkish purple flowers that also emit a sensuous fragrance.

SPRING BLOOMING TREES

Chanticleer Flowering Pear

Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer' is a favorite here at Meyer Landscaping because of the beautiful white cloud-like blooms that burst into life in late April—early May. Its narrow upright form makes it ideal for smaller spaces and is perfect for use as a specimen or as a screen. This medium growing sun loving tree will eventually reach 25-30' tall and 10-15' wide.

Other spring-blooming trees: Crabapple, Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, Magnolia, Serviceberry, Japanese Tree Lilac

SPRING BLOOMING SHRUBS

Korean Spice Viburnum

Inhale the wonderful fragrance from the blossoms on **Viburnum carlesii** and you will know why it is one of our favorites! Pink buds open to aromatic white flowers in mid-spring. At maturity, this bush will reach 4-6' tall by 4-6' wide. To best enjoy the fantastic fragrant flowers, plant it near a doorway or windows.

Other spring-blooming shrubs:

Forsythia, Lilac, Quince, Rhododendron, Sandcherry, Spirea, Sweetspire, Weigela

Continued: GO GREEN – PLANT TREES

SERVICEBERRY – THE BIRDS HANGOUT

Serviceberry is a beautiful ornamental tree with four season interest. Its white springtime flowers turn into blue berries that attract all kinds of feathered friends. Robins, cardinals, cedar waxwings and other birds gorge themselves on this tasty treat. Birds and bird lovers alike will flock to the serviceberry tree. When the blueberry loving birds head south for the fall and winter, the serviceberry still offers up a beautiful sight. Fall leaves are reddish to orange and offers colored gray bark for winter interest. Its height reaches 20' with a spread of 10-15' and will grow in sun or shade.

REMARKABLE REDBUDS

The Redbud is a tricky tree to establish, but well worth it. When it flowers in spring, the intense pinkish purple flowers against its gray bark pops out to get your attention. The Redbud prefers to be planted in a protected spot, away from the winter northwest winds. They grow well in sun and shade, although shade is the favorite spot to be since they are an understory tree in the forest. Its height reaches 25' with the same spread of 25'.

COMEBACK CRABS

Crabs have had a bad reputation for years. Their fruit was too big, attracted bees and the foliage became diseased, dropping off leaves. They've come a long way and are now a much easier tree to maintain and enjoy. Many varieties are grown to be disease resistant. Additionally, some varieties offer smaller fruits while some are even fruitless.

Golden Raindrops-small golden fruit, unique foliage, nice head shape, white flower.

Red Jewel-small red fruit, white flower, more upright (great for small spaces), red fruit persists through the Winter.

Royal Raindrops-newest crab-red foliage, same unique

leaf as golden raindrops, disease resistant pink flower.

Prairifire Crab-pinkish red flower, persistent maroon fruit, green leaves having a slight purplish cast.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN ALL SUMMER

- * Regularly **WATER** new plantings – try to water deeply every 2-3 days rather than just topwater ever day.
- * Weeds will start going to seed during the summer. Keep **WEEDING** a little every day or week – get them while they’re smaller and before it becomes a big “project”.
- * Does your **PRE-EMERGENT** need to be reapplied? (Read the instructions – it depends on when you last applied.)
- * Do you need any more **MULCH** in your garden beds? Mulch helps to both prevent future weeds from starting and retain moisture in the soil. In the case of mulch, you **CAN** get too much of a good thing. You don’t want it to be more than 2 – 3 inches thick and gently away from the base of the plant.
- * Check which **TREES/SHRUBS** should be pruned now (see pruning list.)

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN JUNE

- * **DEADHEAD** plants to keep them neat starting with **PEONIES**. (Check your notes on which plants should be left up for birds or butterflies)
- * Try to finish dividing any **PERENNIALS** no later than the middle of June. New plants from a garden center can still be planted as their root systems are undisturbed.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN JULY

- * **Relax. Read a gardening book or magazine.**

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN AUGUST

- * Divide **IRISES** and **DAYLILIES**.
- * Start dividing and moving other perennials towards the end of this month (if the weather permits).
- * Fertilize **ROSES** for the last time this month (no later than Labor Day) so they can start to harden off before winter sets in.

MULCH – HOW MUCH DO I NEED?

We all know the benefits of mulch, but when it comes time to apply it, the question always arises – how much do I need?

Generally speaking, it is best to mulch to a depth of 3 inches. Mulch is available in bulk (sold by the cubic yard) and in bags. (1 cubic yard = nine 3 cubic foot bags) and covers about 100 square feet at a depth of 3 inches. A 3 cu. ft. bag covers about 12 sq.ft. at 3 inches deep. If you only need to add a 1-inch topdressing to an existing bed, then 1 cubic yard will cover about 300 sq.ft.

The first step in determining how much to buy is to calculate the dimensions of the area to be mulched. Measure the length and width of the bed (in feet) and multiply the two values to determine area (sq.ft). Do this for each area you want to mulch and then add all of them together to determine the total area. Refer to the chart for the amount of mulch needed.

Total Area	Mulch Depth	Cubic Yards	3 cu. ft. Bags
100 sq.ft	3 inches	1	9
200 sq feet	3 inches	2	18
300 sq feet	3 inches	3	27
300 sq feet	1 inch	1	9

Also, there are a number of mulch estimators on the internet. A search on the web using the term “mulch calculator” produces several references. Enter the total area and depth of mulch desired, and the amount of mulch needed is calculated for you!

Visit your local garden center to obtain mulch. Meyer Landscaping carries dark shredded hardwood mulch in bulk (sold by the yard) and 3 cu.ft. bags of cedar bark mulch. Delivery is always available.

The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world.

-Vita Sackville-West

PRUNING

Prune in early Spring:

Buckthorn – Prune to shape.

Burning Bush – Prune as needed to maintain shape and size.

Butterfly Bush – Cut back hard before bloom.

Clethra – Prune if necessary.

Redtwig Dogwood – Cut back up to 1/3 of oldest branches to 6-12” from the ground to help maintain red coloration.

Ginkgo – Prune only as necessary.

Hemlock – Trim back any dieback on tips.

Hibiscus – Prune back heavily now (if you are going to do so).

Hydrangea (Annabelle) – You may either cut to 6” from ground in spring or cut back to 12” in late May.

Hydrangea (Endless Summer) – Start watering well; wait until new growth appears; wait until you know the branch is dead before removing.

Hydrangea (Panicle) – Prune as needed.

Roses – Prune as buds are beginning to swell. Be sure to cut on a slant above a bud.

Smokebush – Prune hard to induce strong shoots with large leaves.

Spiraea – Prune to shape before shrub leafs out or rejuvenate prune by cutting back to 3” from ground.

Sweetspire – Remove damaged wood.

Winterberry – Trim lightly as growth begins in spring.

Witchhazel – Little pruning needed. Can prune during flowering if desired.

Prune in mid spring as new growth appears:

Pines/Spruce – To maintain size, remove up to 1/2 of new growth (the “candle”) in the spring.

The following can be pruned at anytime:

Arborvitae – Needles around trunk will yellow naturally. Fertilize in spring with acid type product.

Barberry – Prune to shape.

Boxwood – Prune individually or sheer to form a hedge effect anytime during growing season.

Cotoneaster (Hedge) – Prune to shape as needed.

Current (Alpine) – Prune to shape (hedge).

Yews – Prune in early spring followed by removal of new growth in summer is the best way to maintain tight shape forms.

Prune after flowering:

Azalea – Little pruning needed. To form tight compact bush, snip off end of new sprouts. Fertilize with acid type product.

Chokeberry – Prune to size and remove any damaged branches.

Crabapples – Prune as needed. Only fertilize in spring or early summer.

Daphne – Prune to shape or to remove dead wood.

Dogwood (Cornelian Cherry) – Remove lower branches to form a small round tree. Remove suckers at anytime.

Dogwood (Pagoda) – Prune only if necessary.

Forsythia – Prune to shape as needed; rejuvenate prune (cut back some of the oldest branches to the ground).

Fothergilla – Only prune if necessary (very slow grower).

Kerria – Cut out old wood; can prune to ground to maintain shape.

Lilac – Cut back high-growing shoots by 1/3 to 1/2 immediately after flowering. Remove weak growth from bush interior.

Magnolia – Only prune if necessary (very slow grower).

Pear – Prune to maintain shape.

Quince – Prune to maintain desired size and to keep center of plant open.

Redbud – Prune only if necessary.

Rhododendron - Little pruning needed. To form a tight compact bush, snip off end of new sprouts. Fertilize with acid type product.

Serviceberry – Prune to shape only.

Sandcherry – Prune as needed only.

Viburnum – Prune as needed (remove suckers at any time).

Weigela – May need heavy pruning to get rid of deadwood and winter injury. Cut back previous year’s growth to new shoots.

Visit your local garden center to obtain the necessary fertilizing products. Please note that Meyer Landscaping does not provide tree trimming services. Please check your local phone book for a tree trimming service near you. §

*Science has never drummed up
Quite as effective a tranquilizing
Agent as a sunny spring day.*

- W. Earl Hall

FREQUENT FLOWER CLUB

We will resume our FREQUENT FLOWER CLUB again this year. It's a very simple program -- you don't have to register, it doesn't cost you anything. The terms are simple; you earn a 10% reward on any flowers (annuals, perennials or roses) purchased from April 1st through June 15th. In July, we will calculate your total (excluding tax) and send you a coupon that you can bring in and redeem in August.

We hope you enjoyed this issue and look forward to seeing you in the Garden Center!

Meyer Landscaping, Inc. Garden Center

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185

June 2008 Coupon

Expires June 30, 2008

June 2008 GARDEN CENTER NEWSLETTER COUPON

\$5 OFF (WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE)

Valid June 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008
ONLY ONE COUPON PER MONTH PER PERSON

Applies to the purchase of in-stock trees and shrubs only.
May not be combined with any other sale offers or redeemed for cash.
Excludes tax, delivery and installation charges (if applicable.)

COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE – NO EXCEPTIONS

Meyer Landscaping, Inc. Garden Center

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185

July 2008 Coupon

Expires July 31, 2008

July 2008 GARDEN CENTER NEWSLETTER COUPON

\$5 OFF (WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE)

Valid July 1, 2008 through July 31, 2008
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