



## AUGUST

2018

**SUMMER CARE**

The extreme heat of August can stress plants and people. A cool tip to help our green friends make it through until fall is mulching around the roots. Mulch keeps the root zone cooler, conserves moisture and keeps weeds down. Cedar mulch is the best to use around trees and shrubs; because of its fibrous nature it stays in place well.

The soil may be mulched and moist but plants can still tip burn and wilt. Heat and wind can take moisture out of the leaves faster than roots can return it. This is especially true of new plantings. A potential problem in very hot weather can be over watering. It seems crazy, but too much water can cause root damage and then the reduced roots can't take up moisture. This causes symptoms, like wilted leaves, that make you think plants need water. Another common issue can be assuming a lawn sprinkler system is giving shrubs and trees enough water. So it is always best to check soil moisture around plants before watering.

**FALL PLANTING**

Extend the vegetable growing season by keeping existing plants healthy. Fertilize with a light organic fertilizer like **Nature's Source**. Continue spraying for diseases and insects if you've had problems. Many vegetables will produce into the fall months if properly fertilized and sprayed.

Another way to lengthen the season is by planting a fall garden. Vegetables which can be planted now for fall harvest include: beans, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, cucumbers, carrots, kale, potatoes, lettuce, mustard, radishes, spinach and turnips. Use granular **ferti•lome Gardener's Special** lightly when planting. Plant seeds a little deeper to keep them from drying out or start them in containers in a cooler spot.

**LAWN CARE**

Cool-season grasses are also struggling now. Watch for dry areas and adjust sprinklers to insure good coverage. Another solution is to apply **Hydretain** to your lawn. Hydretain is a root zone moisture manager that is effective in reducing water use and combating drought stress for 3 months.

If your lawn is getting enough water, but is still

turning brown, grubs may be at work. Dig under the green grass next to the brown areas and you'll find these 'C' shaped beetle larva. They are small and easy to control now. Apply an insecticide like **Dylox**, contained in **Bayer Advanced 24 Hour Grub Killer Plus**, and water in well.

August is the time to start fall lawn renovation if you need to get rid of bermudagrass. Water and even fertilize the grass to make it healthy so it will absorb the herbicide better. Spray **Hi-Yield Super Concentrate KILLZALL** on the bermudagrass. KILLZALL is non-selective so it will eradicate all the grass in the targeted area. After 1 week, mow down short and water to green up anything left alive, then 10 days to 2 weeks later spray again. You may need to repeat the process and spray a third time. Once the bermudagrass is dead you'll be ready to seed fescue in September. Ideal preparation would be to aerate and apply **Natural Guard Top Dressing**, followed by several deep waterings.

**PESTS**

**Euonymus Scale** — this insect was especially bad in spring; it looks like small white flecks all over the stems and twigs of euonymus. The second generation hatches in late August so be prepared to spray then and two weeks later with **Horticultural Oil, Systemic Insecticide** or **ferti•lome Broad Spectrum Insecticide**.

**Webworms** — these insects form unsightly webs around the ends of branches and feed on the leaves inside. Isolated webs can be pruned off. To spray, first rip open the web then use **Natural Guard Spinosad** or **Hi-Yield Indoor/Outdoor Broad Use Insecticide**.

**Rabbits / Squirrels** — if entire plants are dug up or branches are disappearing, you could have a larger pest problem. One single repellent doesn't seem to work for everyone, but the newer the product the better because the animals are unfamiliar with it. **Bonide Repels-All** is both a scent and taste repellent that, once dry, won't wash off; although you will have to re-spray new foliage.