

the Grassette

TERRE VISTA LLC

I wanted to again take the opportunity to thank each of you for your business. We have now been in business for 22 years I have seen many companies come and go, in fact, I can only think of about six companies that are still in business when we started back in 1987. I understand that with the many choices in lawn care out there that you have entrusted me to take care of your needs and I am very appreciative of this trust. I can promise all of you this, I will always work my level best to meet and exceed your expectations. Thank you.

Before this year I have never been to California and now I have made two separate trips in the past two months. If you will remember last month I was on a trip with my mother-in-law from on end of California to the other. This second trip I took was purely pleasure. I was recently invited by my life long friend to visit him in Hollywood and since my daughter Alex and I did not have a vacation this year we decided to go. I know that many of you are thinking "Sid did you not just get back from a vacation last month?" I have three words for you "mother-in-law," I am just kidding I get along quite well with her. Anyway Alex is 17 and quite taken with the whole "pop culture" thing and what a better place to observe this than "crazy Hollywood." We landed at LAX, picked up our rental

APRIL 2009

and met my friend at "In-N-Out" a famous burger chain in LA.



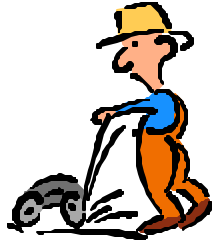
I told my friend that we did not want to put any pressure on him but we wanted to see some movie stars, he promised me we would. After lunch Alex and I followed Jeff back to his office which is located on Hollywood Blvd just down the street from the Kodak Theater, where the Academy Awards are held. Alex wanted to see some "crazy" people so we better that Hollywood Blvd. so we decided to take a walk down the street and look at the famous "Walk of Fame." I wanted to find Billy Crystal's star as he and I share the same birthday, March 14th.

Later that evening we met Jeff's business partner, who is a famous acting coach. Some his clients include LeAnn Rimes, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Kristen Dunst, Denise Richards, Stuart Damon, and Freddie Prinz Jr. John is a really down to earth guy and very good at what he does. Both Jeff and his partner were interested if Alex had any ambition of giving acting a try. I quickly jumped in and said absolutely not and they both respected my concerns, after all they know what kind of town Hollywood has become. By the way the stereo types are true, this town is consumed with appearance and people using people to get what they want; sounds suspiciously

VOL. XVII ISSUE II like Washington DC. At dinner John invited Alex and I to come to the set of General Hospital to watch a taping. I was more fascinated than Alex because I am intrigued how things work. We meet Jeff for lunch and then took a driving tour of



Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, and Malibu. By the way I loved the campus of UCLA and I would not set foot on USC campus. Alex could not believe the amount of nice cars that we saw, in fact, in one 15 minute period while we were on Rodeo Drive we count 20+ Bentleys, these cars are priced well over 200,000 each. During our driving tour it became rather macabre, Jeff started showing us "who" died here and "what murder" was committed there and this being Hollywood "who" committed suicide there. Saturday morning we got up and took a walk along Runyon Canyon were we saw our first "movie star" Matt Dallas of "Kyle XY" ok maybe not an "A-lister" but none the less somebody who once appeared on T.V. We then drove to Pasadena to see the Rose Bowl and then we proceeded to a Mexican Restaurant out in Venice Beach, talk about crazy people Venice Beach is not lacking in this area. We did a lot in just three days and I was thankful to spend some one on one time with Alex.



Turf's Up

With the lack of moisture that we did not received this winter our lawns are quite dry and the spring rains have not yet materialized, I know that many of you have not yet turned on your sprinkler systems; however, a good soaking by hand would be a "good thing."

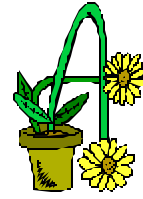
Also, due to the lake of precipitation, I have observed large areas of dead grass in many lawns. I have especially noticed these patches under pine trees, birches, and maples. I think that the reason for this is that these trees root systems are characteristically located in the very upper part of the topsoil; in many cases they are exposed. Anyway these roots are in direct competition with the grass. It is a perfect example of "survival of the fittest."

For all of you who use us for your fertilization needs we have already applied the first round of pre-emergents with the second round to follow later this month. For those of you who take care of your own needs make sure that you have your first round down before April 15th or before the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees, it is published daily in the "Eagle."

I get this question all the time about pre-emergents. "Sid I apply the pre-emergents like it says on the bag but I still have dandelions, why? Well, pre-emergents are not and have never been designed to take care of broadleaf weeds i.e. dandelions, henbit, etc. Pre-emergents are primarily targeted in stopping weed grasses i.e. crabgrass, barnyard grass, and foxtail. Broadleaf weeds have to be taken care of after they have appeared and the herbicide can come in direct contact with the targeted weed. To further complicate things broadleaf weeds are harder to control season long, if your neighbor does not take care of the weeds on their property they can blow over with the next wind and become your next squatter. You will then have to once again treat your lawn for any unwanted guests, I wonder if it would work on in-laws? (just kidding)

For all of you K-State fans we have had quite the crop of henbit this season. Henbit, I call it the "K-State weed," because it is very noticeable with its purple flower and it grows in patches. Henbit is a cool season broadleaf weed that germinates in the fall and overwinters in our lawns only to emerge in early

February and then continues until the first 80 degree day where it is



April To do's

1. Plant cool season garden crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, and cabbage.
2. Start fertilizing roses.
3. Spray Austrian pines w/fungicide to protect against Sphaeropsis blight.
4. Start planting summer bulbs (i.e. gladiolas, elephant ears, and dahlias).
5. Toward the end of the month plant tomatoes, corn, squash, & melons.
6. Remember to plant tomatoes about 1 ½ inches deeper than they came in the container.
7. Remove and destroy dead scotch pine trees before May 1st to reduce the spread of pine wilt.

Night crawlers in the Lawn

by ward Upham

If you have mounds of soil in your lawn, night crawlers may be the cause. These bumps are randomly spaced rather than a "run" that is characteristic of moles.

Night crawlers are large worms – usually 4 to 8 inches or more. They belong to a group of earthworms known as deep-burrowers. The deep-burrowers build large, vertical, permanent burrows that may reach as deep as 5 or 6 feet. Night crawlers pull plant material down into their burrows to feed on later. The bumps you see on top of the ground are called "middens" and are a mixture of plant residues and castings (worm feces). These middens may be used for protection and food reserves. The burrows can have a significant positive effect on soil by opening up channels for water and air to penetrate. Roots also like these channels because they ease root penetration and supply nutrients from the casting material lining the burrow. The middens, however, are a source of aggravation for homeowners. They can make it hard to mow or



even walk on a lawn because they become so hard when they dry.

Getting rid of the middens is difficult. Rolling the lawn while the middens are soft may help temporarily, but mounds will be rebuilt when night crawlers become active again. Also, there is nothing labeled for night crawler control.

Some gardeners want to protect the night crawlers because of their positive effect on soils. Pesticides that may be used for other pests vary widely in their toxic effects on earthworms. One that has no effect is Dylox (Proxol). Malathion may be slightly toxic while Sevin, Benomyl, copper sulfate, and the arsenicals (MSMA, DSMA) are extremely toxic. Avoid using the latter group while night crawlers are active.

Correcting Iron Chlorosis in

Trees Iron chlorosis is a common problem in Kansas because of the high pH in some soils. Though these soils normally contain adequate amounts of iron, the high pH ties up iron so that it is unavailable to plants. Classic symptoms of iron chlorosis are yellow leaves with a network of dark green veins. In severe cases the entire leaf turns yellow and the edges of the leaf scorch and turn brown. Plants may eventually die in such cases.

One of the best methods of avoiding iron chlorosis is by planting tolerant trees. Trees that are susceptible to iron chlorosis include pin oak, sweetgum, and dawn redwood. Moderately tolerant trees are ash, cottonwood, linden, elm, hawthorn, most oaks and ginkgo. Even closely related trees can differ markedly in their resistance. For example, pin oak is notorious for sensitivity to iron chlorosis while most other oaks are moderately tolerant. Also, red, silver and Amur maples are susceptible, but Norway maples are much less so. There are several methods used to correct iron chlorosis in trees. Not all methods work in all situations. The following are the most common.

Soil Treatment: The idea is to acidify a small quantity of soil so that the tree can absorb the iron it needs from these areas. This will only work on non-calcareous soils. A mixture of equal parts of iron sulfate and elemental sulfur are mixed together, and the mixture is placed in holes made under the drip line of the tree. Holes should be 1 to 2 inches in diameter and 12 to 18 inches deep. Space them 18 to



24 inches apart. Each hole should be filled with the iron sulfate-elemental sulfur mixture to within 4 inches of the soil surface. This method is labor intensive and results are sometimes variable.

Iron chelates can also be used as a soil treatment. The only chelate that is effective above a soil pH of 7.2 is Iron EDDHA. It can be found in the products Sequestar 6% Iron Chelate WDG, Sequestrene 138 and Millers FerriPlus. Use these products in the spring before growth starts. Dry chelate can be sprinkled on the soil and watered in or dissolved in water and applied as a drench under the drip line of the tree. Normally, soil-applied chelates last only one year.

Foliar Treatment: Leaves are sprayed directly with iron chelates or iron sulfate early in the season. Response is quick, but leaf burning is possible. Response can be spotty and temporary. Repeat applications may be needed.

Trunk Injection or Implantation: In this method, holes are drilled in the lower trunk and ferric ammonium citrate (iron citrate) or ferrous sulfate is introduced through the holes. There are both liquid and dry formulations. Methods of application include capsules (Mauget), caps (Medicaps), and a system that feeds liquid material via tubes and tees (Nutri-Booster). Though results can be variable, this method usually has the greatest chance of success. Successful applications often last several years. The preferred time of application is during the spring just after the leaves have fully expanded. Use a brad-point drill bit to minimize tree wounding. Research has shown the uptake is enhanced if the holes are drilled in the root flares near the soil surface.

Clover Mites

By Ward Upham

Though clover mites are large by mite standards, they are still smaller than a pinhead. Because they are so small, they can easily invade homes through tiny openings around windows and doors. Though tiny, clover mites are very noticeable due to their bright red color. They are also easily identified by their long front legs, which are about twice as long as the other legs.

Clover mites do not bite people (they are plant feeders) or directly damage home furnishings but can leave unsightly stains on curtains, walls, carpets and other structures if they are crushed. Mites can be removed from inside the home with a vacuum cleaner. Bags should be removed and sealed after use to prevent mites from escaping.

It can also be helpful to try to prevent clover mites from entering the home through the use of

physical barriers and miticides. Mites do not readily cross loose, clean, cultivated soil, so a band about 18 to 24 inches wide all around the house, kept free of grass, will help deter potential invaders. Also, clover mites are so small that applying talcum powder, diatomaceous earth, corn starch or baking soda around entry points can stop clover mites by creating a barrier. Even double sticky tape placed on windowsills will catch the small mites when they try to pass. Replace the tape when it fills. Do not crush clover mites as they will leave a rusty stain.



Homeowners can also keep mites from entering the home by spraying the outside walls and border areas of the lawn and cultivated soil with effective miticides next to the foundation. Try to treat when daytime temperatures will be at least 60 degrees F because the effectiveness of miticides is greatly reduced by cooler temperatures. Spray outside walls and foundations with lambda-cyhalothrin (Spectracide Triazicide, Scimitar) or bifenthrin (Ortho Home Defense Indoor & Outdoor Insect Killer, Talstar). The house should be sprayed from the lower windowsill down to the ground. Pay particular attention to cracks and crevices in clapboards, shingles, foundation and around basement windows. Be sure to spray up and into the area between the bottom of the house siding and the foundation.

We have come along way in 103 years In 1906 the norm was:

- >The average life expectancy 47 years.
- >Only 14% of homes had a bathtub.
- >Only 8% of the homes had a telephone.
- >There were only 8,000 cars and 144 miles of paved road.
- >The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- >The average dentist made \$2,500 per year.
- >More 95% of all births took place in the home.
- >90% of all doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION.
- >Most women only washed their hair once a month.
- >The population of Las Vegas was only 30 people.
- >20% of adults could not read or write.
- >Only 6% of Americans had graduated from high school.
- >There were only 230 reported murders in the entire US.

The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.—Ronald Reagan

How do you tell a communist? Well, it's someone who reads [Marx](#) and Lenin. And how do you tell an anti-Communist? It's someone who understands Marx and Lenin.—Ronald Reagan

This & That

A friend of mine e-mailed this list of church bulletin bloopers the other day and I picked out a few of the more humorous ones to share with you.

--Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

--Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm please use the back door.

--The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Adams.

--Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

--The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours."

Happy Birthday 22nd Kolby!
April 19th

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Thanks for reading,