

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 23 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 that trust. I can promise all of you, I will always work my level best to meet and exceed your expectations. Thank you.

I am really looking forward to May with mixed emotions. May is going to be absolutely nuts and I am asking for all your patience in advance. As you will remember Kolby graduates from college, Alex graduates from high school and the really big event Kolby and Emily are getting married. These are all huge events but to have them all occurring in one month is a little beyond my comfort zone. Did I mention that May is also our absolute busiest month of the season and oh yes, May is statistically the second wettest month here in Wichita. It should be very exciting month and we will do our best to get through it with the minimalist of medication. Kolby and Emily will be living in a cute little house in the Riverside area, they are renting house from friends of the family, a

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much better place than Stephanie and I started off with.

I am truly afraid that with all this latest congressional spending that this may be the first generation that does not

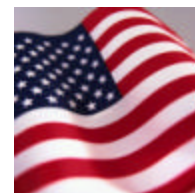


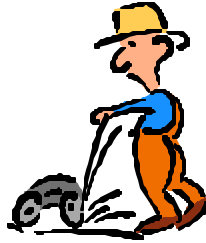
fiscally surpass the previous. It has long been

America's promise that each successive generation has done better. A lot of people want to blame the President but I have read the Constitution and I understand that the blame lies squarely at the feet of congress, especially those members of the House of Representatives. You see all spending bills and taxation bills must start in the House, the "Peoples House." Well right now the people are not happy. The whole of Congress right now has an approval rating of 9% I think even Tiger Woods approval ratings just might dwarf that of the average Congressional member. It has been said that "politics may be the second oldest profession but it bares a striking resemblance to the first." Something Tiger can surly attest. I will now get off my soapbox but I had to vent somewhere and if I kicked the dog my daughter, Regan, would never forgive me. Of course I have never kicked our dog but I was just using it as a metaphor.

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We have all of our spring clean ups done and we ready for the mowing season. I painted my truck, the blades are sharp, and the gas cans are full. It must be April and I must be in the grass cutting business. There is nothing that smells as sweet as a newly cut lawn. I absolutely love this time of the year and I pity all of you that have to work inside behind a dreadful computer. I was reading the other day that 45% of Americans are not happy with their jobs. I can assure you that I am firmly in the 55% who loves their job. I have a great boss (wink) the hours can be long but at a time when the unemployment rate is just under 10% you will definitely not hear me complain. Our customers are great and we continue to grow at a steady rate, all in all things are pretty darn good. We may be in a recession but I refuse to participate. We still live in the greatest country on earth even if some do not believe in American exceptionalism, I sure do. American exceptionalism is not arrogant it is just the belief that America is the best country. After all when was the last time you read in the paper about a boat load of Americans washing up on shore in Cuba?





Turf's Up

By now the first round of pre-emergents are down. Please remember that these products are for the suppression of crabgrass and other grassy weeds and do not control broadleaf weeds. We will spray for broadleaf weeds with the second application.

Our lawns are looking excellent right now we have had adequate moisture over the winter and even this early spring, now all we need are some warmer temperatures. The only thing that I have noticed is a slight outbreak of snow mold. I think the damage is minimal and those lawns effected should recover without any long term effects. At this time watering more that what mother-nature gives us should be discouraged. Especially with that new city water tax coming; we should all conserve as much water as possible.



New "Kansas Garden Guide" Available

For all you who are vegetable gardeners here is an 80-page publication that replaces an older version but is much improved. Updated information and extensive use of photographs and illustrations make the Kansas Garden Guide a must-have for Kansas gardeners. Subjects covered include planning a garden, composting, soil improvement, seeding and planting, watering, pest control, container gardening, season extension and harvesting/storage of crops. Overviews of all common vegetable and herb crops are included. The publication is available as a free PDF or a hard copy may be ordered for \$5.30. See <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/hort2/S51.aspx> for access to the PDF and an order link.

Pruning Hybrid-Tea Roses

by Ward Upham

The best time to prune roses is in the spring before new growth appears and after danger of killing frost. Be sure to remove dead stubs. Otherwise, canker fungi may invade stubs and progress into healthy tissue during the summer. Use sharp shears and make cuts at a 45-degree angle about a quarter-inch above healthy buds. How much to prune after dead wood removal depends on the type of roses.

For shrub roses, pruning consists of removing dead wood. This article focuses on hybrid tea roses. With hybrid teas, there are three pruning styles, each with a specific purpose.

Heavy or severe is done on well-established, plants to large, showy. Prune back to healthy canes eyes per cane. 12 inches long.



Canes normally will be 6 to 12 inches long. Moderate pruning is done on well-established, healthy plants and is designed to increase the number of flowers produced rather than increase flower size. Leave five to six healthy canes with at least seven buds per cane. Prune stems to 12 to 18 inches long. Light pruning rejuvenates plants after years of neglect or may be performed on newly established plants. Leave five to seven canes of about 18 inches or more in length. This helps maximize leaf area for energy production and rejuvenates plants. If your plants suffered a significant amount of winter damage, they may need to be cut back more severely than even the heavy-pruning style. This will result in a few large flowers but in this case is your only option.

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Building a Home for Wild Bees

by Ward Upham

With the concern for the European honey bee caused by Colony Collapse Disorder, wild bees are becoming more important as pollinators. The following article has been reproduced from "Agricultural Research," a publication of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The article

was taken from the March, 2009 issue and can be viewed at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2009/090320.htm> . The totes mentioned in the article were purchased from www.mailproducts.com and are listed under "Nestable Totes."

Need Wild Bees? Plastic Totes Make A Superb Bee "Nursery" **By Marcia Wood - March 20, 2009**

Corrugated plastic bins like the kind sold for handling mail and packages can be quickly and easily converted into a durable "nursery" for wild bees, according to an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) research entomologist.

James H. Cane, with the agency's Pollinating Insects Biology, Management and Systematics Research Unit in Logan, Utah, says that female wild bees will readily use a properly placed, suitably furnished tote as a shelter for their nests. Turned on their long side, the totes can be held firmly in place on a wooden or metal post by means of a lightweight steel chain and a customized metal support frame.

Cane came up with the idea of using corrugated plastic totes—available from suppliers of mail and package

as nesting has tested spring and California, Wyoming



handling equipment—shelters, and them during summer in Oregon, and Utah. His experiments

show that the lightweight, rectangular bins, each 23-1/2 inches long by 15-1/2 inches wide by 15-1/2 inches high, serve as a sturdy, inexpensive and reusable shelter for protecting bee nests against wind and rain.

Growers, professional and hobbyist beekeepers, and backyard gardeners who want wild bees to live near and work in their fields, orchards, vineyards or home gardens can use the totes to house nesting materials, such as five-sixteenths-inch diameter paper drinking straws enclosed in cardboard tubes and stuffed inside empty cardboard milk cartons. Wild female bees such as the blue orchard bee, *Osmia lignaria*, can use the straws as homes for a new generation of pollinators. Wild bees are needed now, perhaps more than ever, to help with jobs usually handled by America's premier pollinator, the European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. Many of the nation's honey bee colonies have been decimated by the puzzling colony collapse disorder or weakened by varroa and tracheal mites or the microbes that cause diseases such as chalkbrood

and foulbrood.

A single corrugated plastic tote can accommodate as many as 3,000 young, enough to pollinate one-half to one-acre of orchard. And, unlike bulky or stationary shelters, the tote houses can easily be moved from one site to the next.

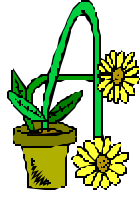
Corporate collaborator Quiedan Company [15400 Meridian Rd., Salinas, CA 93907, web site www.quiedan.com phone 800-408-2117], of Salinas, Calif., helped design and now sells the support frame and mounting plate unit.

Cane published the shelter research for the first time in a July 2006 article in *American Bee Journal*. The totes are now being used in California and for Cane's own research in Oregon.

Have you noticed,

A slightly brown coloration on your junipers. Certain eastern red cedar and various other junipers are showing a brownish cast when viewed from a distance - this may be the male flower. Male flowers are on the tips of the leaves and look somewhat like a cross between a miniature hand grenade and a pinecone. Shaking the branches on dry days will often result in a cloud of pollen being released. Most junipers are dioecious, meaning they have both male and female plants. About half the junipers (the males) will have this coloration. The female flowers are much less obvious. If you are concerned about this please give us a call and we will be happy to look at the problem for you. I have also noticed this year a lot of "die back" and winter kill among junipers; usually you will notice this around the tips of the plants., this too is normal and as soon as they begin to grow this spring they will take care of themselves. You might also want to trim out the affected tips.





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.
8. This is the perfect month to do any spring overseeding.

Fertilizing Perennial Flowers

Most flowering perennials are not heavy feeders, and once established, may not need fertilizing every year. However, a soil test or visual symptoms will help determine plant needs. Weak plants with light green to yellowish foliage will probably benefit from a nitrogen-containing fertilizer. Fertilizer should be applied as growth begins in the spring. Perennials that tend to need more fertilizer than the average perennial include astilbe, chrysanthemum, delphinium, lupines and summer phlox.

Care for Spring-flowering Bulbs

As spring-flowering bulbs go through the flowering process, keep three care tips in mind:

1. If practical, remove spent flowers with a scissors or a hand pruner. This allows the plant to conserve all of its energy for bloom the next year rather than using it to produce seed.

2. Be sure to allow the foliage to die naturally-- it is needed to manufacture food that will be stored in the bulb and used for next year's flowers. I also like to bend them over and secure with a rubber band until the leaves turn brown. I only do this to keep my garden looking tidy until I can cut off the tops.

3. Don't fertilize. The roots of these plants start to shut down after flowering. Fertilizer applied at this time is wasted. Instead, fertilize during the fall at the time bulbs are normally planted and again in the spring just when the new growth pokes out of the ground.

"The trouble with Socialism is eventually we run out of other people's money"—Margret Thatcher

"Man is not free unless government is limited."
Ronald Reagan



**Thanks for reading, & Have a
Happy Easter!**

**Happy Birthday Kol by
April 19th**

Terre Vista



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