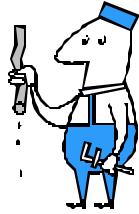


the Grassette

TERRE VISTA LLC

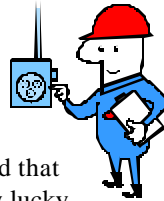
Let it be said that there is never a dull moment at the Burcham household. We are our own reality show. Note to self: maybe I should see about putting our “little show” on the internet. Probably not a good idea; look at what happened to “Jon & Kate + Eight.” Anyway back to my story; the other day I came home to find the plumber in the basement snaking our drain, every-time we would do a load of laundry take a shower the

basement would fill with a little water. The electrician was in the backyard because for the past few days every-time the air-conditioner came on the lights would noticeable flicker, dim and even sometimes we would lose power all together. Aaron from Ribbit Computers was on his way over as I was having major problems with my computer. My daughter Alex’s car was out front and we were waiting for AAA to have it towed to our mechanic. Needless to say it was quite hectic, not to mention the fact that it was near 100 degrees and I was a little irritated with all the new guests. A house full of guests is the last thing I want to come home to after a long hot day, not to mention guests that will be expecting some form of payment upon their departure.



JULY 2009

The plumbers were the first to go and the least expensive. The electrician was next and he determined that he could not fix the problem. He said that we would have to call KG&E because the mail line coming into the house was shorting out and he said that “we were very lucky that our house did not burn down.” That was just what I wanted my wife to hear because for the next several days I new that she would worry about what “could have” happened. We called KG&E, and they were out right away to get things fixed and the best thing is that it did not cost me a thing. Well about the time that the electricians were leaving Aaron was pulling me aside to give me the bad news. Because of the constant power surges my computer was now fried and I would have to get a new computer, just what I wanted

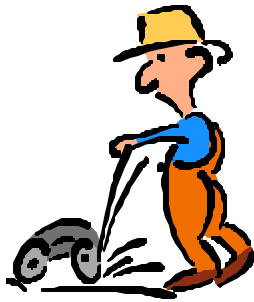


to here, I hate computers as far I am concerned they are a necessary evil. After all this I just had to go downstairs to my office and lock the door for a few minutes of careful reflection. After a few more minutes I realized that I was very thankful that I had the money to get everything repaired and put back to normal. I know that they



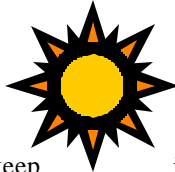
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were little things but when little things add up sometimes they can look overwhelming. It was also a good reality check to look at the things that are most important; my family’s health is perfect, business is great; even in this recession, and my faith has never been more strong, God has truly blessed me and my family and I hope I never lose sight of that. Around our home there is never a dull moment and I am very thankful for that, who wants to live on the merry-go-round all it ever does is go around and around, boring. I like the roller coaster; especially that feeling in your stomach. I always tell my kids that you have to have the lows in life so that you can more appreciate the highs the only thing that I pray is that the lows not be too low and the highs to be numerous. I love being a dad and watching my kids grow and mature into wonderful people, they are truly the joy of my life, unfortunately they are growing up too fast, our baby Regan just received here learners’ permit the other day and it hit me that in about four more years all of our children will be gone. We were watching some home movies the other day and it is amazing were the time goes. In fact, while we were watching I remember commenting “where did all that time go?” to my daughter, Regan replied, “it went all over your face.” I reminded her that I was still young, if only at heart.



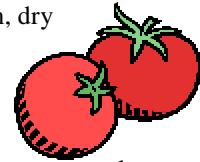
Turf's Up

The heat is definitely on, with a high of 100 degrees on the 25 of June marks the earliest we have hit the century mark in 10 years last year if you will remember it was not until July 22nd that we first hit the 100 degree mark. Despite the extreme temperature fluctuations our lawns are looking very well all in all. Many people think that winter is the harshest month on our lawns and landscape. Actually it is the summer months that are quite stressful. Summer is the time of year when the lawn is trying to survive. In cool season lawns root growth is at a minimal and disease and weed pressure are high. The thicker we can keep the lawn the fewer the weeds will be able to survive. Water at least every third day or so, please keep in mind your soil type and the amount of moisture that we have received from mother nature. The only thing that keeps me going during the summer months is that football season is just a few weeks away. Many of you will also notice what is commonly called "water grass" appearing in your lawn. It is nothing more than nutsedge. While that is easy to say it is a little harder to get rid of, actually it is not hard to get rid of if you use the right chemical. However, with the ease of choosing the right chemical comes a pricey fix. Nutsedge is easy to identify it grows much taller than the surrounding turf, in fact, a day after we mow it is already an inch or two taller than the rest of the lawn. Another characteristic of nutsedge is that the base of the plant is triangular in shape. There are a few herbicides that are labeled for the control of nutsedge but nothing works like "Manage" it kills the plant to the root. Manage costs about \$50 for .9 grams, which will make only a single gallon of mix. If you have an area in your lawn that needs to be treated let me know and I will be happy to eradicate the stuff.



Physiological Leaf Curl in Tomatoes

Every year we receive calls from gardeners about tomato plants with curling leaves. When tomato plants grow vigorously in mild, spring weather the top growth often exceeds the root development. When the first few days of warm, dry summer weather hit, the plant 'realizes' it has a problem and needs to increase root development. The plant tries to



reduce its leaf area by rolling leaves. The leaves curl along the length of the leaf (leaflet) in an upward fashion. It is often accompanied by a thickening of the leaf giving it a leathery texture. Interestingly, leaf roll is worse on some varieties than others.

Though rolling usually occurs during the spring to summer shift period, it may also occur after a heavy cultivating or hoeing, a hard rain, or any sudden change in weather. This year, it seems heavy rains have contributed to the situation in certain areas of the state. Too much rain can saturate the soil and suffocate the roots. The damaged root system is less able to transport water, especially when warm temperatures and winds increase water use. This leaf roll is a temporary condition that goes away after a week or so when the plant has a chance to acclimate, recover from injury, or the soil has a chance to dry out.

Accumulated Stress May Result in Death of Plants

I have seen many healthy trees this season die for no apparent reason; my observation was that it was due to the erratic weather patterns that we have had the past few years, chief among them 2 of the wettest years on record in 2007 & 2008. Below is an article that I copied from K-State (Ward Upham). Too much moisture in the spring and summer followed by too little rain in the winter can cause stress on the root systems of all growing things. Some plants are better able to adapt than others and even then it may take a full season to see any damage. Having a tree for a patient is very difficult as no questions you ask it will be ever answered so that makes it difficult to diagnose any ailment, so in reality it is a 50-50 crap shoot.

We have received reports of trees in numerous areas of the state dying suddenly. In some cases the trees leafed out and then died. In other cases the trees

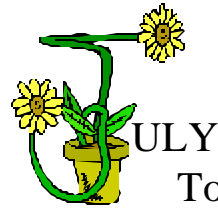
never leafed out at all. In still other cases, the still surviving tree leafed out but then lost leaves through a general thinning. The cause in most of these cases seems to be stress-related. Some areas in Kansas were very wet last year which damaged root systems due to saturated soils not providing the oxygen the roots needed. This was followed by a dry, open winter with fluctuating temperatures further stressing root systems. The growing season thus far this year has ranged from extremely wet to extremely dry depending on your location. We also had a sharp cold snap in early April that may have led to some leaf drop now. Buds may have been damaged resulting in leaves that were able to function during the cool, spring weather but not when the weather turned hot. In such cases, dropped leaves are often still green or may have turned to a yellowish green. Let's look at some of these situations and what should be done to compensate, if anything.

Plants that withered seemingly overnight may have actually died earlier but had enough food reserves to put out leaves and even to grow for a period of time. When the food reserves were depleted, the plants died suddenly, often it seems overnight. Be careful not to confuse this with feeding damage from May beetles. May beetles will strip a tree of leaves rather than leave them wilted and dead on the plant. Healthy trees will easily recover from May beetle damage by throwing out a new set of leaves. Before any tree is cut down, check the twigs. Dead trees will have brittle, dry stems that snap. Live stems may break, but they won't be dry. If the tree is still alive, give it time to put out a new set of leaves.

Trees that lose individual branches should have those branches cut out. Note that there are other possible causes of branch loss such as verticillium wilt. You may want to take a sample to your county extension office to have them send it through our plant disease lab on campus if you suspect disease rather than stress. To find out more about verticillium wilt, go to <http://www.hfr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=1737>.

Trees that are losing leaves through a general thinning should be fine. If the thinning is severe enough, the tree will throw out a new set of leaves from dormant buds. Since this is still early in the growing season, the tree has plenty of time to make the energy it needs before leaf drop in the fall. If you suspect you have plants under stress, try to water them once a week if we do not receive rainfall. Trees should be watered to a depth of 12 to 18 inches if possible. Though this will not reach all the roots of a tree, it will reach the majority of them. Trees normally have at least 80 percent of their roots in the top foot of soil. Shrubs should be watered to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. Check the depth of watering by

pushing a wooden dowel or metal rod into the soil. It will stop when it hits dry soil.



To Do's

1. Divide iris and share them with your friends.
2. Keep a wary eye out for grubs, we will.
3. Stop pinching back mums and they should flower on time this fall.
4. Watch for spider mites on burning bush, Alberta spruce, junipers etc.
5. Remove suckers from crabapples & apples.
6. Towards the end of the month plant fall crop of green beans & beets.
7. Keep feeding your geraniums, they are heavy feeders.

Deadheading Flowers

Some plants will bloom more profusely if the old, spent flowers are removed; a process called deadheading. Annuals especially focus their energy on seed production to insure that the species survives. If you remove old flowers, the energy normally used to produce seed is now available to produce more flowers. Perennials can also benefit by lengthening the season of bloom. However, some gardeners enjoy the look of spent flowers of perennials such as sedum or purple coneflower. Also, the seed produced can be a good food source for birds. Not all plants need to be deadheaded, including sedum 'Autumn Joy', melampodium, impatiens, most flowering vines, Lythrum, periwinkle (Catharanthus), and wishbone flower (Torenia). Those that do increase bloom in response to deadheading would include hardy geraniums, coreopsis, petunias, marigolds, snapdragons, begonias, roses, campanulas, blanket flowers, delphiniums, zinnias, sweet peas, salvia, scabiosa, annual heliotrope, geraniums (Pelargonium), and yarrow. Deadheading is easily accomplished by removing spent flowers. With some plants, this can be done by pinching between a thumb

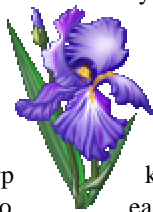


and finger, but tough, wiry stems will require a scissors or pruning shears.

**Remember that it is also very beneficial to keep mums trimmed back, that is, until July 4th when it is all right to let them go now so that they may bloom this autumn.

Dividing Iris

Bearded irises are well adapted to Kansas and multiply quickly. After several years, the centers of the clumps tend to lose vigor, and flowering occurs toward the outside. Dividing iris every three to five years will help rejuvenate them and increase flowering. Iris may be divided from late July through August, but late July through early August is ideal. Because iris clumps are fairly shallow, it is easy to dig up the entire clump. The root system of the plant consists of thick rhizomes and smaller feeder roots. Use a sharp knife to cut the each division consists of a fan of leaves and a section of rhizome. The best divisions are made from a double fan that consists of two small rhizomes attached to a larger one, which forms a Y-shaped division. Each of these small rhizomes has a fan of leaves. The rhizomes that do not split produce single fans. The double fans are preferred because they produce more flowers the first year after planting. Single fans take a year to build up strength.



Rhizomes that show signs of damage due to iris borers or soft rot may be discarded, but you may want to physically remove borers from rhizomes and replant if the damage is not severe. It is possible to treat mild cases of soft rot by scraping out the affected tissue, allowing it to dry in the sun and dipping it in a 10 percent solution of household bleach. Make the bleach solution by mixing one-part bleach with nine parts water. Rinse the treated rhizomes with water and allow them to dry before replanting.

Cut the leaves back by two-thirds before replanting. Prepare the soil by removing weeds and fertilizing. Fertilize according to soil test recommendations or by applying a complete fertilizer, such as a 10-10-10, at the rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet. Mix the fertilizer into the soil to a depth of 6 inches. Be wary of using a complete fertilizer in areas that have been fertilized heavily in the past. A growing number of soil tests show phosphorus levels that are high enough to interfere with the uptake of other nutrients.

In such cases, use a fertilizer that has a much higher first number (nitrogen) than second (phosphorus).

Fruit Salad

My wife Stephanie makes quite possibly the best fruit salad in the world; it is simple and very refreshing on those hot summer evenings.

It consists of the following fruits in the amounts of your choosing all chunked into bite-size pieces. Red and green apples, red and green seedless grapes, kiwi, clementines (small sweet oranges from Spain) bananas, strawberries, blue berries (preferably fresh) and a healthy sprinkle of pecans. Make sure that you add the bananas just before you serve so that they will not brown. Her final touch is a good 1/4 to 1/2 cup of honey over the top, it adds just the right amount of sweetness and ties everything together.



Happy 233th Birthday America!

I think God everyday for our country. We might always do the right thing but I guarantee that the first sign of trouble anywhere around the world our phone rings first. We are still the beacon of hope and freedom around the world and I pray that we never take that for granted.



God Bless America!

(I can still say that...right?)

“ The only necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”--- Edmund Burke (1729-1797)



Terre Vista



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