

the Grassette

TERRE VISTA LLC

In two weeks we will have reached the half way point in our mowing season, we have already visited your lawn 16 times and we hope to have 16 weeks left, barring a quick arrival of winter, although with the temperatures in the high 90's and the heat index right around the 106 degree range maybe a little taste of winter might be nice right about now.

One down and two to go, Kolby and Emily's house is finally ready and they moved out on July 1st. We loved having them here but it is difficult to have six grown people in one house as the saying goes, "you can never go home again." It is still hard for Steph and me to treat Kolby as a grown man I still see him as the 10 year old son that is in the picture which sits on my desk. I think I may have mentioned that casually one day because Emily took care of that. For Father's Day they gave me a framed picture of Kolby and me in our tuxes taken just after his wedding.

Alex will be going to college this fall and so now our home that has been bustling over the past years will be quiet and uneventful. I think I am ready for the change but I know that my wife is dreading the change. Stephanie is a mother and I know that it will be very difficult for here not to have her children to take care. I told her not to worry because I can surely fill the void; I have often been told that I act

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like a teenager. I feel that this is the best way to keep young. Although the other day my daughter, Regan and I were talking and she put into perspective for me. Forgive me if I have already shared this but I love her quick wit so I will share it again. Anyway I was posing the question "where has the time gone." And without missing a beat and in perfect comedic timing, Regan retorted, "It went straight to your face." I just laughed until my side ached. Then after I regained my composure I excused myself



to a mirror and sure enough Regan was right. It is funny how a mirror can be so truthful and unforgiving. Let's just say that my laughter quickly subsided, well at least I have my personality. Come to think about it, it was also Regan who told me that I married "out of my league." I said what do you mean? To which she said, "just look at mom, she is hot and well you are not." It is a good thing that I have a healthy ego. I told her that she should just lock me in a closet and charge admission to see the "elephant man."

While I am on the subject of Regan and her sense of humor, to which I am usually on the wrong end. I remember when she was in either kindergarten or the first

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grade; the class was studying about careers. Regan first asked her mother what she did and her mother told her that she was a stay at home mom and a wife. She then asked me what I did and I told her that I was an "entrepreneur" I told her this because I thought it would impress her class more than a "lawndude." Well anyway later on that year at Regan's parent teacher conference we found out that Reagan had told her class that I was an "ultra manure" to which Stephanie replied, "that's probably closer to accurate." I now know how Rodney Dangerfield feels "no respect, no respect at all."

Well as I said earlier Kolby and Emily moved out on the 1st, but not really. It seems as if Kolby is still here. I came home the other day and I found his shoes and dirty sock on the back patio and I found that newly purchased gallon of milk almost empty. I reached into the fridge to retrieve my leftover gyro from the night before and instead I found an empty space, Kolby strikes again.

I know that my writing style jumps around a lot and sometimes it is full of grammatical errors but I am simply writing as it comes to me off the top of my somewhat thinning head. In fact living with three women it is a miracle I have any hair at all, not to mention that I retained any ability to string a few coherent sentences together. All in all my life is pretty darn good.



Turf's Up

Water, water, water, this is the first time in over three years that we have faced this situation. Our lawns are rather stressed and they could use a good drink, right now we are only about 1 inch ahead for the entire year. Remember rotating sprinkler heads deliver ½ inch of water in about 20-30 minutes while spray heads deliver ½ inch of water in 12-15 minutes. I would recommend watering right now at least 3-4 times per week and please remember not to water on the day we mow.

The “fungus is among us,” I would estimate that 95% of our customers are now affected with brown patch. It is a disease that we typically start seeing this time of the year. It is especially prevalent when nighttime temperatures are in the 80's and when high humidity's are present. We can treat for this disease with very positive results I have bought extra Heritage HG, which is a very effective fungicide, however, it is a little pricy but not too out of line like they used to be, to give a little idea of the cost it is about one and a half times that of a fertilization application; so for example if your fertilizer application is \$50 an application of Heritage would be about \$75.

I have also seen an outbreak of bagworms, right now they are quite small but now is the best time to treat for them, I have a 50 gallon tank of Talstar ready to go so if you notice any of the

buggars give me a call and I will get them taken care of for you.

Over the past 23 years I have learned that every-time we have an outbreak of fungus we can almost certainly guarantee an out break later this summer of grubs. It seems that the fungus will emit a pheromone attracting grubs to the affected lawn. To protect your lawn I recommend using a product called “Merit” with the use of this product I will guarantee that you will not have grubs, it is that effective. Give me a call 685-1794 and we will be happy to treat your lawn.



JULY 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.

Paradox of Our Time

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships.

These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete...

Remember; spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.



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 rhizomes apart so 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

before
Cut the leaves
thirds before
Prepare the
weeds and
according to soil



allow them to dry
before replanting.
back by two-
thirds before
replanting.
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).

A little humor

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!". Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of

the ditch. The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

I read this somewhere and I thought, how appropriate and a great metaphor for the society as a whole. It seems that we live in an age where we have to make sure that someone else is there to before we can take a step forward, what ever happened to our American spirit of "rugged individualism." I fear at every turn we are told that we must have approval either from society or an "all knowing" government bureaucrat. To help us make up our minds the news media has an array of polling data to tell us what to think or in whom to believe. I on the other hand have never listened to anyone, after all if I would have I never would have started my business, I take that back of course I do listen to my wife, because when I do not it usually does not end pretty.

Happy 234th Birthday America!

I think God everyday for our country. We might always do the right thing but I guarantee that trouble 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!

"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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