

the Grassette

TERRE VISTA LLC

What a summer! Except for one 107 degree day back in early July it has been absolutely beautiful. We have had a few hot days but they were quickly extinguished by well positioned cool front or two. In, fact as I am writing it is August 30th and I am sitting on my back patio enjoying a 73 degree day. As the saying goes “all good things must come to and end,” and with that my daughters must return to school to finish their senior and freshmen years at ol’ Wichita East High school. My daughter Regan is going to be a freshman and because of that fact school began for her on the Friday before everyone else was to start on Monday. It is the districts way of getting the incoming freshmen an extra day before they are thrown to the masses of humanity that will inhabit the halls beginning on Monday. One of which will be her big sis, Alex, who is a “big bad” senior, we are expecting Alex to take our little “Reggie Roo” under her wing and watch over her.

I had forgotten just how important the first day of school was, my daughter Regan had been planning her wardrobe since the weekend and by Thursday evening she had it narrowed to four outfits. That evening my wife, Alex and I were witness to a fashion show that would my vote would determine what Regan would wear the following morning. I thought to myself “how long could

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this take?” four outfits five minutes apiece I’ll be downstairs to catch the last three quarters of MNF (Monday Night Football) Wrong!!! Regan first appeared in a pair of shorts and nice top with flip flops. Then she disappeared for a few minutes only to reappear with the exact same outfit, my usual keen sense of observation had escaped me as I did not notice that she



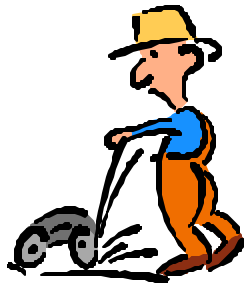
had changed her flip-flops to a pair of athletic shoes. At this time I realized that I might not make it to MNF until halftime. These multiple changes went on for each outfit; first trying on shoes, belts, purses in various ensembles; it was dizzying to me. But you have to remember as a male member of the species I can come from a days work and can shower, shave, brush my teeth and be out the door in fifteen minutes, reason #53 why I thank God everyday that I am a man. I keep threatening my family that one day I am going to write a book entitled “1,000 Reasons Why I Thank God Everyday I Am a Man.” Not that I am slighting the fairer sex but rather I could not put up all the, for lack of a better word; “crap” they have to endure. I do not have the time or

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patients to be a woman, ladies I tip my cap to you all.

Regan and the girls finally had it narrowed to two outfits; I on the other hand, was too overwhelmed to be of any use. Anyway the deciding factor was Regan did not want to look “too cute” for just the freshmen she wanted to save that for Monday when all the upperclassmen would be a party to her “cuteness.” Well the die was cast and Regan finally had an outfit all laid out and ready to go, I then went downstairs to catch the final 1:32 of MNF, oh well it was pre-season anyway. Friday afternoon came and I found out at the last minute Regan changed her mind and went with something completely different, all could think of was how could you have wasted the three hours the night before only to change your mind at the last minute? Well at least I now have reason #54.

I just wanted again to thank each of you for your business this past year. Business has been great and I very thankful to each of you. Your response to our new fertilization division has been phenomenal we have already signed up an additional 10 customers since last month. I hope to have each of your yards measured by the end of September with a quotation to follow of what our charges will be to fertilize your lawn. Thank you for everything have a great day!



Turf's

Summer is by far the harshest season for our lawns and gardens, Kansas, like no place else can be 107 degrees in August and then six months later we can be five degrees below zero. In fact I was reading the other day online that little ol' Wichita Kansas is the hardest place on planet Earth to garden. Every year about this time my flowers are wilting and I just want to go out there and put them out of their misery. Now mind you I water and feed them very regularly but despite all my efforts they just do not seem to be as vigorous as they did back in June. I get so envious when I visit my father-in-law in Golden, he and his wife's garden is absolutely stunning and to make matters even worse my wife pull me aside and asks "why don't our flowers look so nice?" as I must take a deep breath and count to ten lest my head will explode. I take great pride and I am constantly puttering around in my own garden and when that effort is not appreciated I admit I tend to get a little testy. She means well but none the less I tend to take it a little too personal. Sometimes it like making a 300-pound man look good in a "Speedo," some things just cannot be done.

That all being said our lawns and landscapes are looking great so far this summer, we have adequate moisture and the temperatures have been very accommodating fall is just around the corner and football season is just days away, life is good.

Grubs will be appearing shortly, if at all, if you will remember last season was the first time in my 22 years that I did not see one grub worm on any of

our properties. However, this year I have already seen two cases and we dealt with immediately before hardly any damage was done, Terre Vista 2; grubs 0.

Bayleton

I am now a firm believer in this product. I tested it out on a property that notoriously gets brown patch every year and I am happy to report that I kept it at bay this season. I started out with an application in early June and then every 21 days I followed it up with another application for a total of three apps for the season. Bayleton is a little pricy but at the preventive rate it is economical. Let me give some numbers: Let's say that it costs you \$40.00 for a typical lawn application of fertilizer that same application of Bayleton would cost you about 1 ½ times more or \$60.00 per application or \$180.00 for the entire season of protection from fungus. If fungus seems to affect your lawn each year you might want to really think about using this product.

Grubs

If grubs have been a repetitive problem for you then you might want to use a product that I have been touting the past several years. It is called Merit and when it is applied in early June it will give you control over grubs for the entire season. Like Bayleton its costs about 1 ½ times the amount of an application of fertilizer but unlike Bayleton it is only a one time charge and I think that it is money well spent. New research being done by K-State has indicated that the June beetle travels to the same location each year to deposit its eggs. The only thing that we do not understand is that it is a completely different generation that does this, so evidently the prior generation must release some kind of marker for future generations to follow.

Overseeding

This is the best time to overseed your lawn. By seeding in the fall we eliminate the probability of weed infestation thus allowing the newly planted

grass to get a better foothold. We charge \$80.00-\$85.00 per 1,000 sq ft to overseed your lawn which includes Kansas Premium Blend Fescue, starter fertilizer and verti-cutting the soil bed for seeding.

Bayer Tree & Insect Control

This is a great product that has been out on the market for the past few years. It is a systemic insecticide that you mix yourself and then pour around the base of a tree or shrub that you want to protect. Systemic protection I feel is the best way to protect against insects as the insecticide is taken up by the root system thus protecting the entire plant unlike contact insecticides that have to be applied directly to the target insect. Even though this product is not labeled for the protection of "pine wilt disease" it has been shown to slow the spread this disease.

It's Time To Cut Back Peonies

Peonies are old favorites in the Kansas garden. August and September are the months to cut back, divide and reset this dynamic bush of green foliage with single or double flowers that color the landscape in late May and early June. Peony foliage can be cut back at the end of August and plants divided or moved from September until the ground



freezes. If you don't need to divide the plant, just cutting the foliage back at this time will clean the garden of the tired

foliage. Peonies rarely need dividing, but if necessary, cut the foliage to the ground and lift the crown with a potato fork, digging around and under the tuber. Wash off the excess soil and use a sharp, sterile knife to cut the fleshy root. Each division

needs three to five strong bud eyes. Trim the roots to 4-6 inches and reset the plant. It will take up to three years for the plant to establish and return to full size. The earlier the crown is set, the more time the plant has to establish its roots before winter. Plant the crown so that the bud eye is barely below the soil surface, no more than 1 inch deep. Firm the soil and add water at planting time to prevent the soil from settling after planting and burying the eyes too deep. Planting the crown too deep will prevent flowering. Crowns may be planted in the fall or purchased in containers in the spring. Peonies should be spaced 3-4 feet apart, allowing plenty of room for growth. This long-lived plant does best when left undisturbed in the garden. Peonies prefer full sun and away from competition. The soil bed should be deep and fertile with plenty of organic matter. Planting in groups adds mass to the garden, making for a more dynamic flower display.



September To Do's

1. Best time of year to seed or overseed your lawn.
2. Core areate and fertilize your lawn with the first of two fall applications.
3. Spray your houseplants with insecticide before bringing them into the house from outdoors.
4. Plant pansies and mums for fall color.
5. and shrubs.
6. It is also an excellent time to plant perennials to get a jump on spring.
7. Autumn officially begins on the 22nd.

A friend of mine e-mailed this to me the other day. Knowing that I was from Oklahoma he thought I might like it; so here is the top 10 list of “you know your from Oklahoma if...”



1. You measure distance in minutes.
2. You've ever had to switch from A/C to heat in the same day.
3. Stores don't have bags; they have sacks
4. You see a car running in the parking lot at the store with no one in it, no matter the time of the year.
5. You use “fix” as a verb ex: “I am fixing to go to the store.”
6. All the festivals across the state are named after a fruit, vegetable, grain, insect or animal.
7. You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked
8. You carry jumper cables in your car...for your OWN car.
9. You know what “cow tipping” and “snipe hunting” are.
10. You only own four spices: salt, pepper, ketchup, and Tobasco.

Being from Oklahoma I could relate to each one of these and I had a nice little chuckle and the most important thing about being from Oklahoma is knowing that football season is just days away and we begin our quest for our 8th National Championship.



Roasted Garlic Hummus

Here is my recipe for my world famous hummus, you will need:

10-15 cloves of roasted garlic (sounds like a lot but when you roast it the garlic becomes very mild and sweet)

1 can chick peas

The juice from one lemon

3-4 tablespoons of tahini (sesame seed paste)

Good quality olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

Serve with pita bread or pita chips.

In a food processor add the drained chick peas, garlic, lemon juice, tahini, salt and pepper. Pulse until well blended. Drizzle in the olive oil and pulse until desired consistency is reached (you can also use water to thin), I like mine on the thin side and very smooth. I always serve it on a plate drizzled with more olive oil a light dusting of smokey paprika and a few pine nuts scattered around. You can also garnish with olives, jalapeños and dill pickles.

Roasted garlic as follows: In a 400 degree oven I put the garlic in some tinfoil, drizzle with olive oil and salt and pepper until coated, fold the tinfoil around the garlic and roast for 20-30 minutes.



685-1794

e-mail: lawndude2@yahoo.com

terrevistalandscape.com