

Spring 2006

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Let's Talk Trees

A newsletter from Northwest Plant Health Care, Inc.

What's New

Where do I start? It is so exciting to see you, our clients, show your trust by continuing to refer us to your neighbors and friends. Thank you!

We are happy to offer a brand new service called a “**Landscape Physical**”. This service will mimic what a doctor would provide for you but, in this case, be a thorough check up for your landscape. Every spring and summer, the phone rings off the hook with property owners who desire our advice on their specific issue. We are flattered and love to come out and assist with everything from helping to identify plants to creating an overall plant health care plan. However, the new “Landscape Physical” service is a Certified Arborist monitoring your property including an inspection, diagnosis, treatment options, care recommendations, landscaping ideas and other information specific to your individual property’s needs all given to you in a written format so you may utilize it to move forward. We look forward to exchanging information and answering your questions allowing you to decide your best course of action. This comprehensive service will be offered at an introductory price of \$65.



**Becky Phillips &
Thorin Brown**
Our 6th & 7th
ISA Certified Arborists

Each day, I talk with a client that expresses the same thing; none of us can wait any longer for spring! The first 70 degree day is (averaged since 1880) April 18th; we’ve made it! When you get a chance to inspect your landscape, give us a buzz with your “to do list”. We are happy to provide you with tree, shrub, plant and landscape care from installation through maturity!

In Care of Trees,

Joe Zubaly

President

To Do Now

- **Immediately** hang bee traps with apple juice to capture Queen Bees, significantly reducing summer populations of worker bees.
- Fertilize single flush evergreens (e.g. Spruce, Fir, Pine, Arborvitae) now but fertilize spring blooming shrubs after blossoms fall.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control weeds in planting beds.

Mark your Calendars!

Arbor Day Celebrations

Coeur d' Alene

April 29th Cherry Hill, 9 am: **Come dressed to help** plant 40 trees
10 am: Ceremony and plant nine Cherry trees near future
9/11 Memorial Playground Info: 208-769-2266

Spokane

April 29th Finch Arboretum 11am - 2pm: Educational booths,
demonstrations and planting Info: 509-624-4833

Garden Expo

May 13th Spokane Community College, 9am - 5pm, TIEG Garden Club
Don't miss this large, diverse sale. We'll see you there!

Gardening for Good Health

May 20th Open House, 222 N. Havana St, Spokane, 10 am – 2 pm
Exercise & cooking demo plus fun activities & exhibits for all ages!
Info: 509-477-2048

Gardening with Ornamentals

May 18th, first class of four, WSU Master Gardeners: 509-477-2048

Low impact Large Tree Pruning & Removal

What should you consider when hiring someone to prune or remove your tree? First, never be scared into a tree



Safe Removals

removal as this service is more expensive than pruning and may not be necessary. If you truly have a hazardous tree, the professional should be able to clearly inform you of why and show you specific reasons. If you require tree removal, you want insurance and peace of mind. A million dollars of liability coverage should be a minimum standard. Peace of mind is realized when you are dealing with a professional, experienced company that employs Certified Arborists. It is key that they are educated on the best techniques and equipment to use and trained in safety practices. Specifically ask the company's references

what type of clean up they received.

Obviously, knowledge of pruning is crucial because some poor choices are irreversible. Arborists should never wear spikes to prune your tree because it puts many holes through the cambium layer. An arborist should be able to explain which proper techniques your particular tree needs. Some of these may be: dead wooding, pruning for structure, removal of crossing or weakly attached limbs, thinning for air or light penetration, directional pruning or possibly crown reduction. None of these objectives should

be confused with the wrong techniques displayed in this photo, which are: topping, skinning, gutting, over thinning and stubbing. These latter techniques are all performed significantly faster but not for the trees health or aesthetics. You can gain confidence by knowing that a Certified Arborist with pruning experience will actually perform the work not just sell the work. While equipment can't make up for knowledge, it can enhance it by adding efficiencies and safety. Ask what equipment will be used to accomplish your tree care. Our arborists offer you "the icing on the cake" because they are passionate about what they do. This passion drives their client service, clean up and professionalism.

The best tree care companies also have reasonable rates. Ask for a dollar per man-hour rate and the option to pay the lower of bid price or hourly rate to avoid the "bait and switch" services noted above. Paying more than the "low bid" is often a good idea, because the old adage applies, "You get what you pay for."



Poor Pruning



Protecting Properties

Ben's Bistro

Traditionally a Lamb dish, served vegetarian

Moussaka

3 Tbsp. olive oil- divided
2 cloves garlic
1 med. eggplant (1 ¼ lbs)
1 c. chopped onion
2 c. chopped tomatoes
1 Tbsp. tomato paste
1/3 c. chopped fresh parsley
½ tsp salt or to taste
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground cloves
¼ tsp. allspice
¼ tsp. pepper
2 c. cooked lentils
¾ c. cooked diced potatoes
2 Tbsp. butter
3 Tbsp. flour
1 ½ c. milk
1/3 c. grated parmesan-divided
Pinch ground nutmeg
1 egg

1. Slice eggplant into thin disks and lay out on a cookie sheet. Sprinkle lightly with salt and let stand for 10-15 minutes. Rinse and pat dry with paper towel.
2. Preheat the grill or broiler.
3. Stir 1 ½ Tbsp. olive oil and the garlic together and let stand 10 min. Brush each side of eggplant with oil. Grill or broil until browned or lightly charred.
4. In a large skillet, heat 1 ½ Tbsp. olive oil. Add the onions, cook, stirring (approx 2 minutes). Add tomatoes, tom paste, parsley, salt, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, 10 min. Stir in the potatoes and lentils and then set aside.
5. In a 1-quart saucepan, melt the butter over med heat. Stir in the flour

until absorbed. Stir in the milk, cook stirring until mixture comes to a light boil. Be careful not to scorch. Remove from heat. Stir in 3 Tbsp. of parmesan cheese and the nutmeg. In a medium bowl, beat the egg. Beat ½ c. of the white sauce into the egg and then add the egg mixture back into the white sauce.

6. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 9" square pan. Layer the sliced eggplant over the bottom of pan and then a layer of the lentil mixture. Place a third layer, of eggplant, over the lentil mixture. Pour the sauce over the eggplant and sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese.
7. Bake 25-30 min. or until heated through and top has browned. Let stand 10 min. before serving.

“Ask The

Q: I love water features, but have limited space, what do you recommend?

A: Bubbler Rocks These very attractive features come in a variety of sizes and rock types to meet your individualized need. They have many benefits: availability, ease of installation, soothing sound, reasonable pricing (compared to larger permanent features), ease of care through the season and winterizing, and they are very attractive! With the increase in popularity, there are a large variety of small water features available. With a pump and a small pool you can make a water feature out of a variety of different objects to add a new dimension to your landscaped bed.

“What an amazing job. The care shown for our huge Maple made it look great and safe. The clean up, excellent, like no crew had ever been there.”

C. K., Spokane, WA

Q: What can be done to really give my new tree its best chance of thriving?

A: Root washing is an innovative planting technique that involves removing all existing soil from around the roots of trees before planting into our native soils. This method greatly increases the success rate of transplanted trees. After soil is removed, the roots can be pruned to eliminate root defects associated with some production grown stock. Using exclusively native soil eliminates the interface that can be a barrier between the two soil types. Only a Certified Arborist or other gardener that has been trained in root washing should utilize this technique. We are pleased to offer you this service.

A Cool Crowd

River City Gardener’s mission statement reads, “We are a gathering of like minded gardeners who enjoy gardening and get together to share activities, information and friendship.”

The growing group of 80 some members meets every third Wednesday at the Post Falls Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. In the month of April, Phyllis Stephens, the popular gardening expert, will be speaking about Fragrant Gardens (Guest fee of \$1). This fun group of folks is well diversified, ranging from the novice and/or new to the area gardeners to the native born and/or master gardeners. They welcome new members. Info: Karen Stopher, President: 773-7577



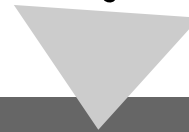
Who’s
hot

Chris Booth

is a core contributor as an ISA Certified Arborist that many of you get to see a few times a year as an expert in plant health care and targeted treatments. His knowledge and flexibility allow the right diagnosis, timing and treatment option to result in consistently healthy plants.

As such a competent professional, he enjoys working with us because he is always increasing his knowledge of proper plant care and he loves working with other committed Certified Arborists. His love of the outdoors carries into many of his hobbies as well. He is an avid biker, snow boarder and camper.

We are excited for Chris and his fiancée Liz, a school teacher, as they plan an early fall wedding with a ceremony on the Coeur d’ Alene River!



What’s Not? Apple Scab

is responsible for reducing both the quality and yield of apples in the Inland Northwest. Apple scab (*Venturia inaequalis*) is most severe where humidity is high and temperatures are moderate during the spring. This fungus will over winter in the fallen infected tissue of the leaves or fruit.

Then, when proper rain and temperatures coincide the fungal spores become airborne and infect the buds of Apples, Crabapples, Mt. Ash and Pears. Infected plants begin showing symptoms in late spring, early summer on the leaves and fruit as small green spots that enlarge and darken as they mature. Chlorosis and death of tissue follow shortly after. Treatment of infected plants starts with fungicidal sprays at bud break and sprays are repeated at 10-14 day intervals while wet weather persists. Sanitation of fallen leaves and fruit is paramount in control of apple scab.

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www.NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com

Ben's Bistro!
To Do Now
Upcoming Events
What's New
A Cool Crowd
Ask The Tree Care
Experts: Q & A
Who's Hot?
What's Not?
This issue:
Proper Planting
Low Impact Large Tree
Pruning & Removal

Plant Health Care - Insect & Disease Management - Fertilizing
Pruning - Removals - Landscape Design & Installation

Proper Planting Technique

Before digging, check with your local utility company and locate any underground cables. Then, identify the root flare on your new tree. The root flare is a natural expansion of the trunk where the roots begin to spread at the base of the tree. You may have to remove part of the soil around the trunk to find it on balled and burlapped (B&B) or containerized trees. Do this very gently in order not to break up the root ball. Unless your tree is being root washed (see Q & A), it is important to leave the root ball intact. Once you have determined where the root flare begins, dig a hole that is deep enough that the root flare sits slightly above grade level. Make the hole three times as wide as the root ball, with sloping sides. This type of planting hole will provide the roots with easier access into the surrounding soil and allow your tree to establish quicker.

Now, you can place your tree into the hole. Do this by lifting the tree by the root ball, not the trunk, as this could cause the root ball to crumble. Once the tree is in the hole, check to see that it is straight

by looking at it from several viewpoints. With B&B trees, cut and remove any string, wire, and burlap from around the trunk and as much of the root ball as possible. You may need to make vertical slices and/or spread the root mass of containerized trees if they have circling roots. Using the native soil, fill the hole to one third full. Soil amendments are not recommended because they

produce a soil type different from the native soil that may impede the extension of roots into that native soil. Gently and firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain, to avoid air pockets. Complete this process until the hole is filled to grade level with the trunk flare slightly above.

Lay three to four inches of composted, organic mulch over the surface of the tree well, not touching the trunk. Build the soil up to form a ridge around the planting area and water your tree by filling the tree well and letting it soak in deeply. Newly planted trees require liberal water for the first year after planting.

