

Let's Talk Trees



Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life

From Joe...what's new

How can we help you improve the health and beauty of your landscape?

Doing more with less

With the financial crunch causing folks to prioritize projects with tighter budgets, most everyone is looking for ways to get more done with fewer resources. And NPHC is no exception. With the cost of doing business increasing in almost all categories, we are always looking for ways to get more bang for our marketing buck. What that means is you'll be getting a call from us soon. Yep, we're going old school!

I mean really, what better way to get things moving in the spring than to connect with those who already appreciate our services to see how we can help out even more? This might be a service that you are unaware we perform, or maybe it is a service that is being provided by another company but not meeting your expectations. Perhaps you just wish to consolidate services you already have with one provider to make your life easier. Now THAT is consistent with getting more for less!

We are hoping to make contact with all of you this season, so put on your thinking caps and consider how we can help further enhance the health and beauty of your landscape. And remember, **we always love referrals to your family, friends and neighbors.** It's the highest compliment we can ever receive.

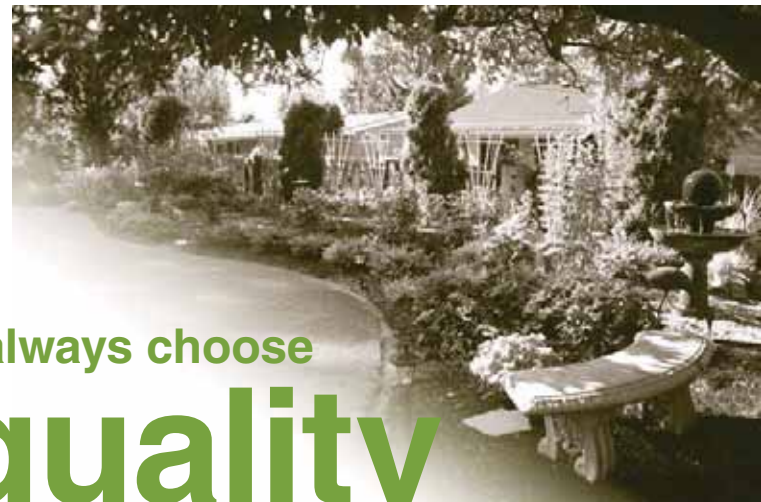
Choosing quality over quantity

Because our goal is to deliver the highest value to our clients, we have made some choices about where we will exhibit this spring.

We will participate as usual at the TIEG Garden Expo* at Spokane Community College on Saturday, May 11. We love this event because we get to see so many of our customers and spend quality time catching up. Where we won't be is the two spring home shows. This way, instead of sitting in a booth, we will have more time to visit with you on your property where it really counts.

When it comes to our clients, we always choose quality time over quantity. It's our way of saying thanks for choosing NPHC! ☺☺

In care of trees, *Joe Zabolzy*



We always choose **quality** over quantity.

The Cool Crowd

Forestry Dept. at the Spokane Conservation District

by Ben Kappen

The Spokane Conservation District (SCD) has been active in the Spokane-area since the 1940s, teaching and facilitating sustainable land use and conservation practices to meet current and future resource needs. The SCD was formed in 1973 and serves the citizens and resources of Spokane County, excluding Deer Park.

The Forestry Department of the SCD provides assistance to the public and local governments in both rural and urban areas in forest management, insect and disease control and wildlife habitat restoration. The SCD offers an ecologically-balanced approach to managing, utilizing, and protecting the forest and wildlife resources and specializes in assisting the non-industrial private forest landowner.

For more information regarding the programs available to land owners through the Forestry and other departments of the SCD, please visit <http://www.sccd.org>. ☺☺

TIEG GARDEN EXPO

ONLINE http://tieg.org/Garden_Expo_Attend.html

PHONE SCC @ 509-533-8010

EMAIL gardenexpo@comcast.net

Local nursery pros share a few of their favorite plants by Ben Kappen

As the excitement of spring gardening is upon us, we thought it would be fun to ask a few trusted local nursery professionals for some plant ideas to peak your interest. After all, you love plants, we love plants, and they love plants too. And here in the northwest we especially love deer-resistant selections. Be sure to visit these fine nurseries for plants, products and inspiration!



Lori Cates

- **Helleborus hybrids** (shown)
- **Catmint** *Nepeta x faassenii* 'Walkers Low'

A deer-resistant favorite for the shade garden is **Helleborus**. An early bloomer in mild climates, we usually see them mid-March, letting us know spring is right around the corner! They are evergreen, and come in a wide variety of flower colors. For a long-blooming perennial also fit for deer country, **Walker's Low Catmint** is hard to beat. This 2007 Perennial of the Year blooms May through September and has beautiful periwinkle blue flowers supported by fragrant grey-green foliage.

▶ **Gibson's Nursery, Spokane Valley**
1401 S. Pines Rd | 509-928-0973



Alan Tower

- **Ice Plant** *Delesperma cooperi* (shown)
- **Bluebeard** *Caryopteris* 'Lil Miss Sunshine'
- **Lodgepole Pine** *Pinus contorta* 'Chief Joseph'

Alan loves any plant that is still blooming at Thanksgiving, and **Cooper's Hardy Ice Plant** certainly fits the bill. Also blooming at the perfect time is **Lil' Miss Sunshine Bluebeard**, with its blue flowers contrasting perfectly with gold foliage in August and September. **Chief Joseph Lodgepole Pine** is the brightest gold of all conifers and the nursery is very pleased to have a supply of this rarity for the 2013 season.

▶ **Tower Perennial Gardens, Spokane S. Hill**
4010 E. Jamieson Rd | 509-448-6778



Dianna Decker

- **Silver Fir** *Abies koreana* Horstmann's Silberlocke (shown)
- **Pasque Flower** *Anemone Pulsatilla*

Low-maintenance conifers provide structure and winter beauty in the landscape.

Horstmann's Silver Fir is a slow, compact grower with outstanding blue/purple cones on silvery green branches. It is a great choice for smaller landscapes and is deer resistant.

Pasque Flower is one of the earliest perennials to emerge in spring. It comes in a range of colors and blooms for at least 6 weeks, followed by attractive, feathery seed heads. Best of all, the deer don't eat it.

▶ **Northland Nursery, Post Falls**
8093 W. Prairie Ave | 208-773-3247

Kate's Mom, Nancy, prepared this crowd pleaser every holiday!

Horseradish Noodle Dish

- 1 lb. fine egg noodles
- ¾ lb. bacon
- 24 oz sour cream
- 24 oz small curd Cottage Cheese
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tsp Tabasco sauce
- 3 Tbs grated Horseradish
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley, diced
- fresh ground black pepper, to taste

Preheat oven to 350. Cook noodles until al dente. Sauté bacon, remove and crumble. Use drippings to sauté onions and garlic, then drain. Mix all ingredients in oiled 5 qt Dutch oven. Cover and bake until bubbly! Toss with parsley and black pepper. Serves 8. ☺

Hints

- May need extra sour cream to keep moist
- After cooking, transfer to crock pot to keep warm
- Mix ahead and put in fridge till time to bake

THE TIME IS NOW!



Lovely plants need lovely landscapes. If you are thinking about making improvements to your outdoor space this summer, **NOW is the time to begin putting ideas into action.** As a full service Landscape Design and Construction company, NPHC can assist with all phases of your project, including hardscapes, irrigation, and of course, beautiful plants, trees and shrubs!

CALL JOE TODAY! 509- 892-0110

To Do

- ✓ Clean up beds and lawns
- ✓ Apply pre-emergent herbicides in beds
- ✓ Fertilize lawn and apply dandelion control
- ✓ Turn on sprinklers and perform upgrades
- ✓ Prune your fruit trees and others

NPHC offers spring clean up!
Call Becky to schedule your
service. 509.892.0110



Randy has over
11 years managing
turfgrass!

Who's Hot

Randy Cenell

Randy joined NPHC in 2011 and has been a crucial member of the PFT team ever since. Randy is a Certified Arborist and Licensed Pesticide Applicator and has a Bachelor's Degree in Horticultural/Environmental Sciences. He is also an expert in Turfgrass Management with 11+ years experience managing turf for the local golf courses.

When he is not working, Randy likes to spend his free time golfing, camping, and skiing. When asked what he likes best

about working for Northwest Plant Health Care, he said "I like the independence that the position allows and that the company trusts me to make decisions regarding properties based on my own knowledge and experience. It's pretty liberating and gratifying." Look for Randy on your properties soon! ☺

What's Not

Dandelion

by Becky Phillips

In 2008 my lawn had so many dandelions that it was more yellow than green. Although I liked the contrast in colors, my husband felt differently and convinced me to get rid of them. Instead of using chemicals to control them, I had what I thought was a great idea: I would hire my kids and their friends to pick the flowers and pay them a penny a flower. Sounds good, right? A hundred and thirty-eight dollars later I still had a lot of those yellow flowers in the lawn. It was time to treat them chemically. By the summer of 2009 my husband was happy.

The dandelion plant has a deep tap root and can grow in a wide variety of locations, which makes this plant one of the best known weeds in North America. The culinary uses for dandelion are also widely known, not only on this continent, but in Europe as well, where it is grown and harvested for everything from salads to coffee.

When trying to control this weed, it is necessary to use a pre-emergent herbicide in the fall or spring. A follow up application or two throughout the following growing season may also be needed. If you have issues with dandelions, give us a call and we will create a treatment plan to help you manage this persistent weed. ☺



ASK



the Tree Care Experts

When is it okay to start planting things in my yard?

by Becky Phillips

We get this question every year as soon as the days begin warming and the sun starts shining. Be patient. Even though it feels like winter is over, there is still the potential for a killing frost until the end of May in Eastern Washington, and the end of June in North Idaho.

However, trees, shrubs, and perennials that are hardy to our region can be planted as soon as the ground thaws. 'Hardiness' rates the plant's ability to tolerate adverse weather conditions and commonly refers to the lowest temperature at which a plant can survive. The USDA has declared our region to be zones 6a-6b, with our lowest average temperature being 10 degrees below zero. Be sure to pick plants that have this or a lower hardiness rating and you should have years of enjoyment watching them grow!

If you're thinking of planting grass seed, you can do so about mid May, when the spring rains come. Be sure to read the planting recommendations on the bag, as they will have optimal planting times. For specific questions, give us a call or visit our booth at the SCC Garden Expo May 11. We are always happy to share our expertise! ☺

NPHC is the **best!** I am happy to refer...
my plants, trees and yard are
testimony to your outstanding **care.**
~ Mary Munger, Liberty Lake

Specializing in Distinctive Landscapes by Certified Arborists.



P.O. Box 1978
Post Falls, ID 83877
509.892.0110
208.687.2884
NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com



THE INSIDE DIRT

Nurseries rave
about their faves

Horseradish
Noodle Casserole

Get to know
Randy Cenell

Dispelling tree myths: Volume II

By Joe Zubaly

Myth: All of the "energy" in a tree is stored in its root system over the winter.

1 Reality: First of all, tree "energy" is really starches/sugars that are transported around the plant through the process of respiration. And yes, as the dormant season comes on following leaf fall, there is general downward trend in the movement of these starches. This is a plant survival strategy so that if something happens to the plant over the winter, like freezing of the crown, limb breakage from storms or in-my-yard moose feeding, this energy is safely tucked away. However it is not all stored there.

For the buds to swell and leaves to push in the spring, starches are stored in the small twigs directly adjacent to these buds. The leaves, once expanded, begin respirating by expelling oxygen through tiny holes in the leaf surface, called stomata, and that is what creates the pull to move the stored starches from the root system back into the top of the plant. ☺

Myth: Fertilizing my tree will make it healthier

2 Reality: There are many good reasons to fertilize, like accelerating vegetative growth so that a hedge is formed more quickly; providing a specific nutrient that is missing in the soil; or helping a tree recover from some environmental stressor.

At the same time, a warning goes out to those who see fertilizing as a cure-all for what ails a tree. Insect populations such as aphid and scale are exacerbated or even brought on by high-nitrogen fertilizing. Diseases such as fire blight, anthracnose, and others are worsened when a tree is fertilized because these diseases affect the new soft growth that pushes in the spring. By fertilizing you are actually providing a more favorable environment for infection from the disease.

Too much of a good thing can also adversely affect plants through a buildup of salts in the soil leading to root damage and result in poor uptake of other nutrients necessary for sustaining plant growth. So, before you start pouring on the fertilizer, think about what your objectives are for that plant and prescribe a plan that fits. ☺



**Too much
of a good thing
can adversely affect plants.**