

The Land Design Digest

September 2021



Maintenance Tips

- Deadhead perennials
- Prune Hydrangea blooms
- Keep feeding roses
- Its time for the 2nd application of preemergent
- Great time to spot seed your lawn

From Dale's Desk

It is difficult to imagine that our summer is near its end. It has gone by so quickly! This year the frequent rains have assisted most of our lawns and landscapes in being strong, healthy, and green. It gives me real pleasure to drive by projects we have done and see them looking so great.

Fall is fast approaching and I want to encourage you to schedule time outdoors in the comfortable fall weather. It makes me especially pleased to know that the beautiful outdoor spaces we have helped to create are being lived in with your friends and family.

So use this as a reminder to make plans now to invite your loved ones over and deepen your relationships in the beautiful outdoors.



More than Plants and Patios

While our crews install a lot of foundation plantings and paver patios, every once in a while we get a few projects that step outside the norm. This year we have had a few of those.

One of our current projects includes fixing a backyard slope. When our client purchased the home, the previous owners had tried to fill in the ravine to enlarge the yard, but it was slowly slipping away. The new owner wanted to return the yard to a more natural setting, so we have worked with her and various subcontractors to ensure the safety of the slope and the home.

We work a lot with water: making sure there's enough for plant materials and making sure it doesn't go where it shouldn't! In one project, we are creating a few ways to keep water from flowing down a hill directly to the home's foundation. Surrounding the gravel driveway, we are installing a tall stone border to keep the gravel from washing away. Then, on one wall of the foundation, our crews are building a concrete and stone trough to catch water and divert it away from the foundation.



We also installed a putting green this spring. Our crews had previously installed artificial turf, but there was a bit more to this project. With a bit of research, we beautifully integrated a space for this golf loving family.

If you can dream it, we can get it done!



Plant Concerns

Insects are on the rise as plants are under more stress

from weather extremes. Some that we are observing: bagworms, scale, psyllids and leaf miner on boxwood, rose sawfly, etc. Some insects appear to be having more than one generation this year. Diseases are also becoming more prevalent. It is important to do scouting every few weeks and treat immediately.

If you have any concerns about your plants, call Kim with the Landscape Management Services at 309-208-4787 to set up a visit!







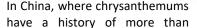




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Chrysanthemum (Mum) History



2,500 years, they've been trained as bonsai, honored in artwork and consumed as food and tea. The people of Japan became so enamored with them, chrysanthemums were given the status of royalty. They were brought to North America from Europe in the 18th century. It wasn't until the 1930's and 40's, when researchers discovered how to make mums bloom at any time, that they became so popular. Mums remain the most widely grown pot plant in the country and are one of the longest lasting of all cut flowers.

In many European countries the chrysanthemum is known as the death flower. In countries such as Belgium and Austria, it is used almost exclusively as a memorial on graves.

However, in general, chrysanthemums are believed to represent happiness, love, longevity and joy.

If you have a high school student interested in a career in horticulture, have them stop by our booth at ICC's Career Showcase on Friday, September 17th from 9am to 1pm near the **Arboretum at ICC's East Peoria campus!**

we'd love your feedback.









A Highly Valued Team

HIRING

With Fall Prep season coming, our LMS division is looking to hire a couple of gardeners to join the team. If you or anyone you know is interested, please have them contact Lauren at 309-208-4777. This position is M-F 7am-5pm, but would consider a part time position of 2-3 days a week also.



RAINING

As we continue to grow our Prairie Management services, Kristen Wettstein and Lauren Howell recently attended some prairie specific training at the Dixon Prairie in Chicago.



We'd like to recognize some of our recent employee anniversaries: Stacie Aberle (1), Micah Aberle (1), Kristen Wettstein (6), Althea Adams (16), Tom Endress (17), and Rogelio Vega (24).