
➤ GREAT LAWNS/GREAT LAKES

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2004

Made possible through Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County Dept. of Health, and the Water Education Collaborative

Survey Results

Here are some key highlights... after participating in the program: - 81% of those surveyed mowed their lawn at 3" (the correct amount for weed control) as opposed to only 5% before participating in GL/GL - 88% left their grass clippings on the lawn (to provide a "natural fertilizer") or composted as opposed to only 53% who did so prior to the program - 63% of people fertilized once a year or never in 2003 as opposed to 25% who did so before (that means 75% of people fertilized two or more times per year before the program!) - before participating in the program, 87% of participants treated their entire lawn with pesticides -- after the program, only 19% did so, with the remaining using spot treatment or no pesticides at all. Wow -- all those that have been involved in Great Lawns/Great Lakes this past year deserve a big pat on the back for all the hard work - Kathy Starr, Mary Jo Lane, Lisa Less, Donna Alexander, Anne Johnston, Jamie Romeo, Kristy Ott, Dr. Frank Rossi, Jennifer Grant, Brian Eshenaur, Todd Stevenson, Margit Brazda-Poirier, and of course YOU, all the people who took the time to participate in the program and continue their environmentally-friendly lawn care practices!



The latest issue of the GLAHNews focuses a great deal on positive changes happening around the Great Lakes Basin. Changes can be hard to accept, yet often the work we are trying to accomplish to protect aquatic habitats requires changes in policies, plans, thinking, and more.

Director, Jill Ryan writes "Kevin Blanchard's seven dynamics of change help me understand how people may react to change in particular ways, 1) people will feel awkward, ill-at-ease and self-conscious, 2) people initially focus on what they have to give up, 3) people will feel alone even if everyone else is going through the same change, 4) people can handle only so much change, 5) people are at different levels of readiness for change, 6) people will be concerned that they don't have enough resources, and 7) if you take the pressure off, people will revert back to their old behavior.

(<http://www.kenblanchard.com/highfive/seven.cfm>)

Understanding these dynamics can help us manage changes that are needed, whether they are at home, in our organization, or in our community. As you consider the changes you are trying to bring about, keep these dynamics in mind as a way of being prepared for some of the challenges you may face. But by all means, do continue to work for those important changes." After all, nothing endures but change.

Heraclitus (540 BC - 480 BC)

For more information about The Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News, visit them at www.glahabitat.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Survey Results

2 Change

3 GardenScape

4 Weed Trivia

5 It's Spring Cleaning Time

6 What's Next?

GardenScape

March 18-21, 2004

2004 Dome Center, 2695 E. Henrietta Rd.



Tickets: \$12 Adults

\$5 Children 6-12

Free for kids 5 and under

www.rochesterflowershow.com

Weed Trivia

What tree was mistaken for cinnamon by Spanish explorers the 16th century and became a major colonial export and was used commercially to make common household products until being declared unsafe in the 1960's?

Sassafras, also known as cinnamonwood, was used in products like root beer, chewing gum, toothpaste and many other products until being declared a carcinogen.

What common weed was once used as a remedy for jaundice?

Commonly known as bindweed and a relative of the morning glory was used for various remedies including laxatives

What common perennial has been dried, powdered, juiced, boiled and made into all kinds of concoctions for the treatment of internal and external wounds for many centuries? It was even written about in the 1597 volume "Herball" by John Gerard. Hint: Its Latin name refers to money.

Creeping Jenny or moneywort has been used for treatments involving bleeding. It loves moist places and can often be seen on roadsides and makes a terrific groundcover. Glossy round leaves give it its name and it blooms golden yellow flowers in mid-summer. However there is no modern scientific evidence to support most of its healing abilities except to aid in the healing of mild external wounds.

What common butterfly becomes poisonous by eating its favorite food?

The monarch butterfly caterpillar feeds on the leaves of milkweed. These leaves are poisonous to most animals thereby rendering the butterfly immune from attacking predators that wish to feed upon them.



"Relax, your time isn't up. I'm here for the plant you haven't watered in weeks."

It's Spring Cleaning Time!

(For the yard and landscape, that is) Rake up leaves and winter debris (which are loaded with phosphorus) away from paved surfaces and storm sewers. Now is a good time to cut down ornamental grasses and {PRIVATE "TYPE=PICT;ALT=perennials in winter"}perennials that remained in the garden as winter interest. Take a walk through your gardens or home landscape this month and prune out broken limbs and branches as soon as possible to prevent further damage. Get soil samples ready for pH testing, or full lab analysis, and beat the late spring rush. Now is a good time to look over your bookshelves and see what you need to add to your gardening library. Turn your compost pile. Remove old leaves especially from disease sensitive plants, such as Maple Trees, to eliminate overwintered pathogens. Apply clean, composted mulches in mid-spring after soil has warmed up enough for active root growth. Don't fertilize yet if your lawn looks good or if you fertilized in late fall. Excess fertilizer in early spring promotes top growth at the expense of root growth. Deeper roots are more resistant to pests and drought. Plant grass seed only if you have a thin, weak lawn or bare spots. Depending on the species, grass will begin to germinate when soil temperatures reach 45 to 55 F at a 2-inch depth.

Come visit our booth at the **Chase Pitkin Home Expo**
At the **Rochester Riverside Convention Center**

Saturday, March 20th 9am – 6pm and

Sunday, March 21st 10am – 5pm

We will be partnering with the NYS Integrated Pest Management Program to share information about environmentally friendly lawn care practices.

What's Next?

We would like to hear from you. If you have a question or a specific topic that you would like more information about in our next newsletter, please call Kimie Romeo @ 461-1000 ext. 252 or e-mail klr35@cornell.edu. You can also send a note via the US Postal Service to Kimie Romeo, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County provides equal program and employment opportunities