June 22, 2017 things to do this week

Lawn
- Keep mowing your RTF Tall Fescue at 2.5-3”. This is the same height that it should have been mowed during the spring. Be sure to keep the mower blade sharp. There have been calls regarding brown patches in lawns. The most common cause for this is fungus or drought stress. Fungus will occur because lawns were not mowed for 10-14 days and the grass had remained wet from rain. Be sure to mow at least once a week. Do not rely on lawn fungicides to treat your lawn for the brown spots because the fungicide will kill both good and bad fungi. The good fungi is needed because they prey on brown patch and dollar spot fungus. To treat, make a half application of Turf Trust now, and within a few weeks the brown spots will go away. The C.D.U. and ammonium sulfate will naturally help eradicate the dollar spot and brown patch fungus. However, if your lawn was over seeded last fall and too much seed was used per square foot, then the brown patches cannot repair themselves, and these areas will need to be reseeded with less seed in the fall.
- Make sure your lawn receives at least 1 inch worth of water per every 5 days.
- Never water your lawn in the evening during the summer.
- Do not forget to make the monthly Kick Start application if you made a phosphate free lawn fertilizer application or if your grass was sown last fall.
- Kick Start naturally helps phosphate become available and makes fertilizer more efficient. Go to Kickstart video to see how kick start has improved grass root systems.

Perennials
- Black eyed susan perennial plants turning black likely have botrytis. To treat this, apply Mancozeb. Make sure your black eyed susan is well fed with Garden Trust which will help prevent botrytis.

Feed Peonies and Hardy Phlox with Garden Trust. Roses will be more disease resistant, if fed 4 oz per plant, in the spring and in August with Garden Trust.

Shrubs / Plants:
- After your newly planted rhododendrons are finished blooming, remove the spent flowers as soon as possible to prevent phytophthora fungus. When the new growth of your newly planted rhododendron is 4-6” tall, remove the new shoots; your rhododendron will make new growth soon thereafter. Between removing the shoots and the second new growth, the plant’s energy will be directed at growing a stronger root system. With the stronger roots, your plant will be more resistant to phytophthora fungus, which kills many newly planted rhododendrons. Always use Baccto Sphagnum Peat Moss when planting rhododendrons and water with Kick Start when planting. Reapply the Kick Start every 2 weeks for a total of 4 applications. Then feed with Plant Trust 3-4 weeks after planting. Rhododendron Roseum Elegans and its hybrids are the most resistant rhododendron to phytophthora.
- Alberta spruce that are starting to turn brown on the outside are infested with spider mites. Treat them with Summit year round spray oil.

- Remove old dead flowers on butterfly bushes “buddleia” to make room for new growth and flower spikes. Make sure your butterfly bushes were fed with Garden Trust if not done so already. Standard butterfly bushes are cleaner looking and easier to maintain as compared to dwarf varieties.

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• Remember to watch for bagworms on arborvitae. Use BT to irradiate the bag worms when they are still small. If the bagworms are larger later on, then use *Bonide Systemic Insect Control*.
• Now is the time to shape out of shape plants.
• Mountain Laurel can be pruned now.
• Make sure to feed your rhododendron and Mountain Laurels. If they have not been fed with *Plant Trust*, then do so now.
• Support re-blooming hydrangea with double loop peony rings. This type of hydrangea does not have stems as strong as non-re-blooming mop head hydrangea.
• Cedar apple rust spots are now visible on apple, crab apple, and Asian pear trees. These trees should have been sprayed with *Monterey Liqui-cop* before they broke dormancy. Apply *Bonide Copper Fungicide* or Mancozeb to slow this fungus down.
• Spruce, pine, and juniper turning brown from the inside out likely have spider mites. Treat as soon as possible with *Summit Year Round Spray Oil*. If these trees are not treated, they may die, especially Alberta Spruce. After spraying, make sure that the plants are well fed with *Plant Trust* if not already done.
• Japanese beetles are already out in the Mid-Atlantic states and they will be present more north within the next few weeks. Do not use Japanese beetle traps. The traps can attract more Japanese beetles to the area. To control Japanese beetles spray the beetles with Bonide Eight spray. Prevent Japanese beetles on your plants, drench them with Bonide annual tree and shrub insect control one month before Japanese beetle season.

Look for lace flies on Azaleas that are planted in full sun. (leaves will look like they are covered with salt and pepper, also under the leaves they will have black spots) Treat them with *Bonide systemic insect control*. Make sure to check the soils Ph with a *luster leaf PH meter*. When the Azalea leaves look brown or burned the PH may be too high, adjust the ph with iron sulphate to get the ph to near 5.5.

Remove spent Rose flowers from your knockout roses and inspect them for rose slugs. Control them with *Bonide rose RX systemic drench*.

Tomatoes remove any tomatoes that have a black spot and rot, known as blossom end rot on tomatoes. Treat with *Bonide stop rot* and give the affected plant an application of *Bonide hydrated lime*.

Tomato plants in containers that are developing yellow leaves with brown spots on the plants lower half, means that the plant is running low on food or they where not watered once on time.

Weak or sick houseplants, put them outside in the shade and feed them weekly with *seamate*.

Alway read product labels prior to application.

The key to disease free plants is proper feeding.

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