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WATER + LIGHTING TIPS

Irrigation System Start-Up

Properly preparing your irrigation system for use is an important part of protecting your landscaping investment. Start-up services include charging your irrigation system, resetting your timer and adjusting heads to ensure optimal coverage. Call Lifestyle to schedule an appointment for April.

Pond Maintenance Lifestyle can prepare your pond for spring by cleaning debris, servicing pumps and assessing what treatments are required.

Landscape Lighting Maintenance

Clear fallen leaves and debris from well lights. When a bulb needs replacement, it is wise to replace all bulbs simultaneously.

Attract Butterflies To Your Garden



With the Butterflies & Blooms exhibit re-opening at Woodland Park Zoo this May, you may be wondering: "How can I attract butterflies to my own landscape?" Who wouldn't want these magnificent and charming creatures gracing their flower beds? Below are some basic hints and ideas you may find useful in developing a haven for butterflies in your own backyard.

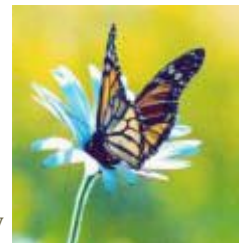


What do butterflies look for in a flower?

Food. For most adult butterflies, nectar is the main component of their diets. They are also attracted to the bright colors and the shapes of blossoms. Flowers with large petals are ideal for luring butterflies to your yard as they provide a nice area for them to sit while they dine.

Which plants should I include?

Fast growing annuals to consider are cosmos, marigold, zinnias and heliotrope. To make sure that your butterfly garden is always in bloom, choose perennials that bloom at varying times throughout the seasons. Coneflower, coreopsis, aster, and garden phlox are just a few. Larger plants that provide shelter such as lilacs, viburnum and, of course, butterfly bush are all very popular as well. Plant your selections close together in large groups, as most butterflies are highly attracted to the most abundant blooms.



Where should I plant?

When deciding the location of your butterfly-friendly garden, make sure to pick a place that gets lots of sunshine. Butterflies must always keep warm enough to fly and when the air isn't warm enough, (85-100 degrees fahrenheit) they love to bask in the sunlight to heat themselves. Also take into consideration how sheltered the area is from the wind. Planting shrubs around the edges of the space is an easy way to protect these delicate insects from the breeze.



Important:

Never use pesticides in or around your butterfly garden. Since they are insects, most traditional pesticides and insecticides are fatal to butterflies and their larvae.



Garden Calendar

April

Plant peas, carrots, cabbage, asparagus, beets, cauliflower and corn. Summer flowering bulbs can also be planted in April.

Bait for slugs with a pet-safe slug bait.

Clean ponds and water features.

Pinch tips of asters, sedum, coreopsis, and other bush-forming perennials to make them fuller, and self-supporting.

Mow and water regularly. Apply a spring fertilizer with moss control as needed.

May

Control weeds now as they are easier to pull when they are small and the soil is still damp.

Shop for perennials such as astilbe, bleeding heart, campanula, columbine, ferns, lady's mantle, lupine and sweet woodruff.

Avoid nicking the bark when mowing or trimming near trees. This can kill the tree or leave an entrance for pests and disease.

Remove aphids with a jet of water or in extreme cases with an insecticidal soap.

June

June is an ideal month for shaping evergreens. This is also a good time to prune vines, deadwood, and weak or diseased branches.

Stake tall and floppy annuals for support.

Provide birds with plenty of water to keep them away from berries and vegetables.

Monitor roses for winter damage. Be on the lookout for mildew, aphids, blackspot and other insect and disease problems.

Fertilize vegetables and berries with manure, compost tea or organic 5-10-5 fertilizer.

Angie's List 2006 Super Service Award

Lifestyle Landscapes, Inc. has received the Angie's List Super Service Award for 2006. The award is presented to companies that achieved and maintained a superior service rating throughout the 2006 year. These service ratings are determined by Angie's List members. We would like to thank those of you who gave our company those superior ratings. We are glad to have you as clients and to have made such an impression on you.



Are you interested in "Learning for the Fun of it"?



You may already be familiar with DiscoverU, but if you aren't, now is the time to check it out! DiscoverU is an adult continuing education program based in the Seattle Metro area. They offer a wide variety of classes, from ornamental steel welding to stand-up comedy. They even offer day trips. Do you want to learn snowshoeing on Snoqualmie Pass? No problem! No matter your interests, DiscoverU has something for you.

Most informational classes and trips are one-day sessions. Others, such as yoga and dance, as well as some art courses, are on a 4 to 6 week schedule. A low registration fee, a course fee and, if applicable, a materials fee are required for each class.

A few classes you may find appealing are Mosaic Home & Garden Workshop, Hand Tied Spring Flowers, Wild Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk or Healing Herbal Salve Making.

An upcoming event to consider:

Tulip Festival & Snow Geese Trip: Saturday, April 21st. 10am-3pm/\$75

"...the largest concentration of Snow Geese on the Skagit Estuary. Float the Lower Skagit River into the Swinomish Channel at La Conner. Guided by professional naturalists and boatmen, this trip is designed to view the natural habitat of geese...After arriving in La Conner, you are guided through the spectacular display of tulip fields in Mt. Vernon." Bring a lunch (or money to buy lunch) and your camera. Transportation is provided to and from the meeting location.

For more information about this trip and other classes, visit the website, www.DiscoverU.org, or call, 206.365.0400



Visit a Local Garden this Spring

Japanese Garden located in the Washington Park Arboretum. Open April, Tues-Sun. 10am-7pm, May 1-August 19, Daily 10am-8pm Admission: Adults \$5, Youth/Senior \$3, Children 5 and under free.



Kubota Gardens, 9817 55th Ave. S, Seattle. Open daily sunup to sunset, admission is free.

Parsons Garden, 7th Ave W and West Highland Dr. Open daily, 4am-11:30pm, admission is free.

Volunteer Park Conservatory. Open daily, regular hours 10am-4pm, summer hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day) 10am-7pm, admission is free.



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Lifescapes

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Your Guide To Puget Sound Happenings...

"Clean & Green Seattle"

Clean & Green Seattle is a way for communities to collaborate with city departments, non-profits and private enterprises to try and make a difference in this great city. Since January 20, 2007, Clean & Green teams have held 62 events. These teams have:

- ◆ Collected more than 216,550 pounds of litter
- ◆ Painted out more than 5,879 graffiti sites
- ◆ Cleaned up more than 145 illegal dump sites
- ◆ Recycled more than 11,488 pounds of recyclable materials



If you want to get involved, some upcoming events are: April 20th in SW Seattle, May 5th in Ballard and June 2nd Downtown. Or, you can fill out an online request for more information at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/mayor/issues/cleanseattle.htm>.