

## SUMMER TIPS

### July

- Make sure to pull your weeds by the roots before they bloom and set seed. A few minutes of weeding daily will make a noticeable difference in the garden.
- Deadheading spent blooms can extend the blooming time for many flowers.
- For a healthy and lush lawn raise your mower blade to 3-inches and mow a little slower. Using a mulching mower will add organic matter to your soil and reduce the need for fertilizers, weed killers. The organic clippings will also hold moisture and prevent your lawn from going dormant later in the season.

### August

- This is the hottest month of our year and newer plantings need help getting the moisture they require. Water your soil and not plant foliage. Water droplets on foliage act as a magnifying glass and the sun will burn your plants.
- Plan your fall chores now. Consider mulching your leaves for use on your gardens. Audica's calendar fills quickly so schedule now for leaf removal, redesigning areas that have been on your mind, and closing your gardens before winter.
- It is also a good time to plan painting projects, cleaning of barns, basements and attics.

### September

- Cooler temperatures make now a good time to reseed grass in areas that need repair. Also the best time to plant trees and shrubs while they have plenty of time to establish themselves before winter.
- This month leave some of your spent blooms for the birds and to self seed for next year. Purple cone flower, sunflower and liatris are some of the bird's favorites.
- At the end of the month plant garlic and spinach for next year. Audica can help you with all odd jobs as well. Check our website for previous issues of our newsletter.

## IDEAS FOR LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPES



*Pachysandra*

Consider ground covers instead of lawn for low maintenance. There are ground covers for every situation. Sun, shade, evergreen, deciduous and some can even withstand a little foot traffic. They can reduce your mowing chores by covering difficult to mow areas such as under trees and rocks. Ground covers also add interest to your landscape.

A good way to establish a ground cover is to properly prepare the soil, plant densely, water wisely and diligently keep weeds out until the ground cover can protect its own territory. In some cases mulching is necessary. Once ground covers are established they require little care and crowd out most weeds. Call us to discuss options for your landscape.

## PEST CONTROL

Japanese beetle grubs live in the soil. They feed on the roots of grass and leave unsightly, yellow, dead spots in the lawn. They emerge in July as metallic green and copper colored beetles that feed on the foliage of your plants. The Beetles remain

active until September. You can help protect your prized plants by hand picking the beetles and placing them in a jar of soapy water. An application Neem oil to your plants and nematode during the larval stage (August and the following spring) has

shown good results in reducing the numbers of these pests. Nematodes can be purchased at GardensAlive.

## THINGS TO WATCH FOR

### POISON IVY RULE

#### “LEAVES OF THREE, LEAVE IT BE!”

This plant has a variety of forms and it would behoove you to be able to recognize them. The perimeter of the leaves are serrated or smooth. The leaves can be glossy, shiny or matte. Its growth habit can be a plant on a single stem, vine or bush. If you have come in contact with poison ivy rinse the affected area immediately to remove the oils. Wash your skin well with cool soapy water and follow

with isopropyl alcohol. All clothing that has come in contact with the plant wash in warm soapy water. We have tried many treatments to no avail until we came across ‘Natures Poison Ivy Cure’. You can find this product at Brooks Feed and Farm Supply, in Brunswick, or call the company directly at 207-737-2548.



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



*Monolithic Fire Pit in Brunswick*

The center stone of this fire pit stands 9 feet tall and the outer bowl is just as wide. Made of odd shaped stones found lying around the premises, we stacked them to create this structure. In center is a small horse shoe style pit, measuring approximately 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide, made of jumbo white cobblestones. The outer stones are for sitting and enjoying the fire.

The small center pit can be ignored and you can make a large fire if desired. The skirting is of crushed stone where additional seating will be placed. This elegant fire pit stands like a monolith in the middle of an open field set in about 1400 feet from the main road. It's a beautiful sight all on its own, but even more so surrounded by deer and morning mist.

### CAUTION – GROUND BEES

*Some bees that are found in the ground, under shrubs, logs, rock piles, hollow trees, stacked plant pots, hollows of fencing, etc. In August they are particularly aggressive and will actually give chase for up to 50 feet. We strongly recommend you call the professionals at Well Tree. They are quick to respond and within 24 hours your problem is solved.*

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