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Plant now for summer color

While spring bulbs have bravely emerged from the soil and promise bright flowers some day soon, now's the time to think about planting summer bulbs for the delightful colors they can add to your garden months from now. On the cover is an orange dahlia, but sun-loving dahlias come in nearly all colors.

For a lesson in how-to, see page 30.

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In this issue:

Deep Rooted: Clovelly Nurseries

This operation, on the banks of the Chester River since 1984, features 200-plus acres of thousands trees, and has served the Neffs well.

by Kevin George, Page 16

Looking for a reset button?

Vegetable gardens are known to be very forgiving – but for best results, plan ahead. No matter what shade your green thumb may be, there's still plenty of opportunities for second chances and new plantings.

by Sean Clougherty, Page 24

Down with a goose problem

An Easton man found a way to use ingenuity to battle the problem of himself and his neighbors about unwanted geese that appeared to be attracted to their housing development.

by Sean Clougherty, Page 39

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Would you like to share?

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Proceed with caution on April 1

On April 1, 1957, the BBC aired a news piece reporting the rebound of the spaghetti harvest in Switzerland because of the eradication of a weevil that had been preying on the plant.

The report showed workers carefully removing strands of spaghetti from orchard trees and delicately placing them in baskets. Spaghetti noodles — explained Richard Dimbleby, the Walter Cronkite of his era — are always the same length because of years of hard work and careful breeding by generations of growers.

Editor's Notebook

By Kevin George



ers — was not known enough for them to know it was a processed food, and not grown.

Therefore, the station was flooded with more than 250 calls from people asking how they could go to watch the harvesting operation and how they might acquire their own spaghetti plants.

formed by a radio or television outlet upon its viewers: Mass-media April Fools.

Many of us will likely be on high alert on Thursday of this week: April 1 is always a casting call for pranksters and their unsuspecting victims.

According to legend, the tradition has its roots go back about 500 years when the world's population began adjusting to the Gregorian Calendar, and away from the Julian one — which began new years on March 25.

Back then, communication was not exactly the jet-speed

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Start Preparing for the Spring Growing Season



As the spring growing season approaches, you may be thinking about the wide selection of fresh, new plants available. However, before you buy, make sure you have a well-designed landscape plan.

Developing a Landscape Plan

Successful residential landscape plans work functionally and aesthetically. Using a professional to help design your landscape and guide you in the selection of plant materials may benefit your landscaping in the long run. It's important to understand the property's drainage, soil, and ecology; locate all existing site elements; develop a wish list of new ones and locate them properly; and resolve these elements together into a successful format.

Tips for Creating a Landscape Plan

- Conduct a site inventory and analysis.
- Create a list of site needs.
- Assess your family's needs and desires.
- Locate on the base map desired site areas (e.g., play areas, usage areas, gardens, walkways, water features, and so on).
- Develop the planting plan.
- Develop a maintenance plan.
- Develop a budget.

—Anthony Barbarino, Residential Design Consultant



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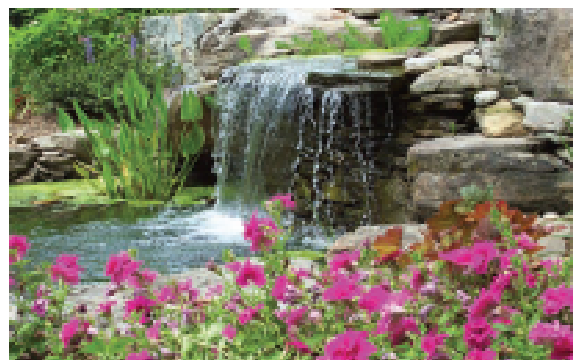
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Tips for Selecting Plants

- Resist the temptation to buy a plant without having a definite place in the landscape to place it.
- Buy from a well-established business with a good reputation.
- Learn everything you can about that plant before buying to make sure that the conditions at your home will meet the plant's cultural requirements.
- Buy fresh plant material.
- Plants should have a good green leaf color and not be discolored. There should not be any dried branches or wilted leaves.
- All plant material should be properly labeled.
- Check for damage to trunk or stems that has not properly healed.
- For "ball and burlap" material, the root ball should be intact with no cracks or loss of soil. The plant root ball should be firm. The plant should not move independently of the root ball.
- For container plants, inspect the root system to assure they are not "root bound." Turn the container upside down, supporting the plant by the top of the root ball and gently removing the container. The root ball should remain intact with no significant loss of rooting medium, and the roots shouldn't circle the inside perimeter.
- Look at the size of root ball and container. Root balls should be 10" wide for every 1" of trunk caliper. The trunk caliper is the diameter of the trunk 4" above the root ball.
- Be sure to understand the warranty program for the plant materials you select, especially the owner's maintenance responsibility.

—Mark T. Dougherty, CLS, CPH, Purchasing Manager



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A sweeping dream

Recently, I had a sweeping dream.

Let me explain: I had dozed off on the sofa, and the last thing I remember seeing was a Swiffer commercial.

The lonely mop had made its way up the basement steps and was doing a dance on my kitchen floor.

I appeared slumped over with a key in my back and had both arms loaded with buckets, brooms and an assortment of cleaning supplies.

Tid Bits

By Bev Leitch



I had to face it .

Before I could guiltlessly enjoy spring planting, I had to do spring cleaning.

I am grateful for the Swiffers and Earth-friendly green cleaning products.

like to pass on some helpful hints.

Be realistic. Most people don't have a full day to devote to house cleaning. Choose a room to begin and don't try to accomplish more than your time allows. That will only add frustration.

After choosing your point of origin, make a list of what you'll need.

Try to use environmentally friendly products whenever possible. Go green.



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