

## In the News:

A recent article appearing in the Sherman Citizen News mentioning Designing Eden volunteering more than 40 hours of time for John Lent's Eagle Scout project of rehabbing the landscape @ The Sherman School. The day of the installation more than 20 people showed up.



## A Better Slug Trap

With all the moisture this year, slugs have been a major nuisance. When people have slugs they typically put out caps of beer which need to be replaced on a regular basis due to evaporation. Water from rain or irrigation will also dilute the beer where it becomes ineffective. The diagram below might be a better option.



1. Empty 3/4 of beer from bottle or can.
2. Partially bury bottle so opening is at soil level.

Note: It's important to place the can/bottle at just the right position in the ground for this to be effective. If a lot of slugs are present and multiple bottles are needed it's helpful to take a nap between step 1 and 2.

Please send newsletter requests, questions and topics to [info@designingeden.com](mailto:info@designingeden.com). To receive this newsletter send one box of milk chocolate (Nuts and caramels only, no creams) with your contact information to the address listed above.

## Garden Calendar

**October:** Start planting spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils.

Apply winter mulch around tender plants before first frost.

A great time to complete a final weeding of your perennial bed is after your perennials have died back to the ground.

Water broad leaved evergreens every two weeks until the ground is frozen. In the past we've seen major desiccation damage to broad leaved evergreens like Holly and Boxwood because they had less than adequate moisture before the ground froze.

Protect your broad leaved evergreens from winter desiccation by applying an anti-transpirant.

Begin spraying plant material prone to deer browsing with a repellent. Repellex is a good choice.

**November:** Wrap any plant prone to snow or animal damage with netting/burlap.

Cut back perennials if they are not going to provide winter interest.

**December:** Bring in garden hoses.

Put a gas stabilizer in power equipment and run for 10 minutes or run the tank dry. Change spark plug, oil and filters.

Re-apply deer repellents and anti-transpirants every 2 months when temperatures are above 40 degrees.



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## Greetings from Richard



As I write this column gas prices are dropping. Approximately 70 cents in the last couple of weeks. Boy, I hope that trend continues. This summer I was behind one poor sole. He was filling up a

pickup. In the bed was also a gas tank used to fill up equipment. When I pulled up to the pump it read \$548. Wow! Why aren't gas stations offering free massages to ease the stress? That's the least they could do.

It's a good thing that farmers don't take after the oil companies. Finding a locally grown red tomato these days is like looking for a needle in a haystack. It's the end of the summer and all of our tomatoes are still green. I'm waiting for the veggie stand down the street to one day change the sign from tomatoes 25 cents to "due to uncooperative weather we are forced to raise our prices to \$4.50 each. It's nice to know that farmers don't feel the need to capitalize when the weather doesn't cooperate.

As always, now is the time to start planning next years landscapes. Our schedule fills up quickly.

I'd like to thank our clients for the best summer and fall we've ever had. Without you it would not have been possible.

Richard

## Fall Foliage

Living in New England, we are a lucky bunch! No, not because of the rapid and drastic changes in temperatures that drive people who work outdoors crazy. New England is one of only a handful of places worldwide which has the climate and tree species needed to experience the right of passage known as fall foliage. As tree leaves transform from green to magnificent shades of yellow, orange, red and purple.

The fall color we see is due to sunlight striking certain pigments located within the leaf. There are four types of pigments which account for the colors we see. Chlorophyll, Carotene, Anthocyanin and Tannin. During the growing season trees carry out photosynthesis in cells containing chlorophyll. Chlorophyll becomes the most prevalent pigment due to the process of photosynthesis. As fall arrives, the days get shorter and cooler, giving trees less opportunity to produce chlorophyll. As chlorophyll production slows, the green color starts to disappear and the other pigments become more visible.

Along with chlorophyll, leaves also contain carotene, the same pigment which gives carrots their orange color. Most of the year the yellow color of the leaf is masked by the greater amount of chlorophyll within the leaf. As chlorophyll production is slowed the carotenoid pigment

takes center stage and the leaf become yellow.

Anthocyanin pigments are responsible for the red and purples we see in some species of plants. Orange fall foliage is when both carotene and anthocyanin become present within the leaf.

Other factors also play into the colors as well. Soil fertility, amount of sunlight, temperature and the amount of water all play a vital role in the formation of color. Trees in lawns which have received fertilizers high in Nitrogen will be brighter than a tree in poor soil. Bright light favors red colors. It's not uncommon for the same species of maple to be red in full sun and orange or yellow in partial shade or for one side of a tree to be a different color than the other.

Some years fall color is more pronounced than others due to temperatures. Fall weather conditions leading up to peek season which are warm and sunny followed by nights between 32-45 degrees usually bring on the best displays. Rainy or cloudy weather will decrease the amounts of intensity which we will see.

Freezing temperatures and heavy frost greatly reduces the brilliance by killing or injuring the leaf before the pigments reach their full development.

Given all the variables which need to take place together it's amazing just to witness such a sight.

"Art is born of observation and imitation of nature"  
Cicero

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## Plant Pick



What's not to like about a small tree that flowers with snow on the ground. Diana Witch Hazel eventually reaches 15' tall and wide. Fragrant red blossoms in late winter.

### What you're saying:

Bill Dlugas, owner of Planting Design Professionals and a plant salesman at TLC Wholesale Nursery, approached me earlier this year asking if I was the one who landscaped the Abriola Parkview Funeral Home in Trumbull, CT. After I told him that I was the one he had this to say: "As a wholesale plant salesman and owner of a landscape company for over 15 years I can tell you that I've honestly never told anyone what I'm about to tell you because I'm just not fond of a lot of work other landscape companies are installing. That is the nicest garden I've ever seen. Great job! I've known you for 20 years and I never realized how talented you were as a designer". Thanks for your kind words Bill. Do you work on commission?