



106 Riverview Street
Fairmont, WV 26554

Phone: (304) 366-6966
Fax: (304) 366-6913
Email: Pbiaf@aol.com

Design

Build

Maintain

PERCEPTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

Issue 1

Spring 2000

Perceptions in Landscape is our firm's opportunity to provide our friends and clients with news and information about Biafore's Landscaping and the green industry in general. Our intention is to make this news letter an interesting and valuable source of knowledge for those who appreciate the value and benefits of landscape design and gardening. Since this is our first issue, we are providing you with a short history of the company and brief descriptions of some of the planned features. Biafore's Landscaping welcomes any questions, comments, or suggestions on content for future issues.



Company History

Richard and Daniel Biafore formed Biafore's Landscaping in 1962 after many years of working with their father, Salvatore, in gardening and landscaping. In the beginning, the company was a part time business offering services in landscape installation and maintenance. The company served the Fairmont area while occasionally implementing projects in Clarksburg and Morgantown. Both residential and commercial clients were, and still are, a part of the company's growing client base. Richard and Daniel were among the first landscape contractors to sit for and pass the State of West Virginia's licensing exam for certified pest controllers in the early 1970's.

Also at this time, the company began to purchase property along Riverview St. in the Watson area of Fairmont. Currently at 2 ½ acres, this property serves as our primary place of business with an office, garage, storage buildings, fields for

growing nursery stock, and cold frame green houses for container propagation of perennials and shrubs.

Biafore's Landscaping has also greatly expanded its services over the last few years. In addition to landscape and lawn maintenance and installation, we now offer full service irrigation design and installation, concrete and brick paver design and installation (including patios, walkways, driveways and terraces), landscape lighting, and complete landscape architecture and design services.

Our firm is proud to be members of the West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association and the American Nursery and Landscape Association. We also have members and associate members of the American Society of Landscape Architects on staff.

Company Changes

In the beginning of this year, Biafore's Landscaping transitioned from a partnership to a Limited Liability Company. This change will allow us to more effectively expand our services and market area.

Daniel Biafore will remain actively involved, while Michael and Patrick Biafore will assume the responsibilities of Richard Biafore who is moving into partial retirement. Richard will continue to remain active on a consulting basis as well as continue to administer our fertilizer program.

Nothing is more completely the child of art than a garden – Sir Walter Scott

Project Profile

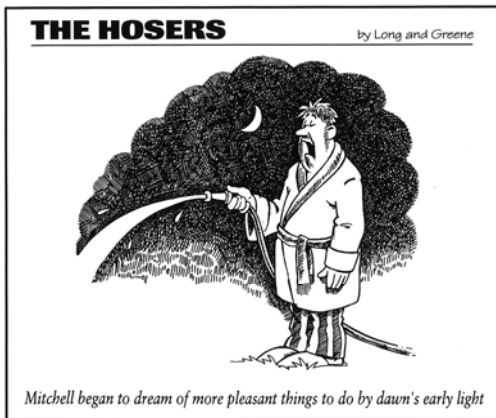
Washland Laserwash,

Fairmont Avenue and 7th Street. Fairmont

This past fall, Biafore's Landscaping was commissioned to design and install landscaping at Fairmont's new state of the art car wash. Our firm worked hand-in-hand with owners Steve and Deanna Atkinson to achieve a landscape look befitting the area's first car wash that used lasers to enhance the quality and detail of the automated wash system.

Columnar and species boxwoods were used to reflect the bold architecture and sleek layout of the site. A mix of perennials and ornamental grasses was installed along with other flowering shrubs to provide a dynamic planting that would change throughout the seasons, while a blanket of ½ inch sized crushed red brick chips provides a unique and exciting mulch. An automatic irrigation system will ensure that the plant material remains vibrant and healthy throughout the harshest summer heat.

The highlight of the landscape design is a cascading waterfeature that produces a steady spray of water 52" into the air and splashes down onto a bed of stone and 2-3" river jack. The spray itself is uplit at night by 4 underwater lights with blue lenses. Originally planned as a 4 foot high natural waterfall, the new waterfeature concept was arrived at in order to not visually detract from, but complement a restored antique Cadillac that protrudes from the building. Washland Laserwash is open 24 hours.



Introduction to Irrigation

By Dave Lewis, Irrigation Consultant, Krigger and Co.



In this day and age, irrigation systems for the residential or commercial property owner have become so popular that studies indicate that almost 80% of all properties will have an automatic sprinkler system in the next ten years. In response to this, more than 77% of all landscape contractors do some sort of irrigation work.

With today's renewed interest in, and appreciation for, the benefits of landscaping, people are investing more dollars into their

lawns and gardens. With this investment comes the need to protect it from damage and death caused by lack of water. 1999's record drought made us all realize the time, energy and amount of water needed to maintain a landscape by the typical means of sprinklers and hoses. It also makes it inconvenient to water gardens and lawns at the proper times. The worst time to water is during the mid-afternoon sun or in the late evening. If watering is done during the hot afternoon, it causes stress to the plant life and 60% of all the water evaporates while watering.

The best time to water is between 4:00 am and 8:00 am. This allows the plants to absorb the water before it evaporates and to dry before nightfall. This will help to keep down the occurrences of diseases and fungus.

With new technology and lowered cost of materials, automatic irrigation systems have become an efficient and economical means to maintain a healthy landscape.

Irrigation-The WV Market

With the increased interest and activity in automatic irrigation in the local area, Biafore's Landscaping has decided to add full scale irrigation design, installation and maintenance to our services. We will periodically provide information on irrigation design and installation in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact our office for information about this service.

Remember to schedule your spring irrigation system start up and inspection.

Discussing Dirt

By Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center

This time of year can be the most exasperating for any avid gardener. It's too late to concentrate on planting perennial spring bulbs or pansies, yet too early to plant even the most hardy of biennials or perennials in snow covered or frozen ground. If one was to venture into the winter garden and plant, the local deer population will likely decimate anything green that peeks out of the earth. So what is an avid gardener to do?

Plan

The basis of any garden plan is, not surprisingly, dirt, or more properly referred to as soil. In Marion, Monongalia, and Harrison counties, most of the soil types in suburban settings are of three general types: Westmoreland-Culleoka, Monongahela-Allegheny, and Gilpin-Lily association soils. So why am I telling you this? Because, all of these soil types are mildly to strongly **acidic**, therefore, **organic depleted**.

Get a Soil Test

A soil test will enable you to determine soil pH so any necessary adjustments can be made. Even without a soil test, organic matter is always appropriate to add to virtually any West Virginia soil. So what is organic matter.... vegetative material. Most locally available organic matter has been processed by one means or another in order to kill weeds, fungi and bacteria that may be harmful to the plants. What type of organic matter was processed does not particularly matter, as long as it has been pasteurized or composted. In other words, been treated to kill weeds, fungi and bacteria that may be harmful to the plants that are in the soil. Raw or 'green' manure can cause as many problems as it could potentially solve, particularly the importation of weeds and plant pathogens. So what works best? Long fiber peat moss, old, composted manure or commercial organic matter such as Leaf-Gro®. So now we have our source of organic matter, what do we do with it?



Big is Better

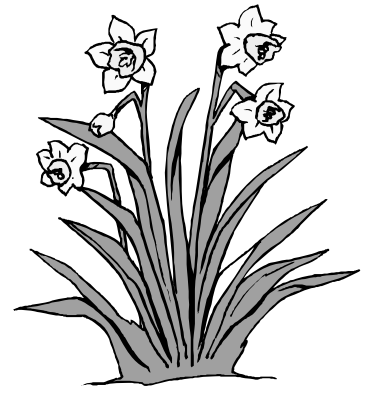
Never treat a plant, treat an entire area. If you have a plant that has problems and is in a bed, give the entire bed a top dressing of organic matter, not just the specific plant. Also avoid incorporating fine organics into soils heavy in clay. This will increase drainage and aeration problems. And remember, the unhappy plant is probably not alone in its symptoms, just a leader. So, if you are going to the effort, treat whole areas, not just problem plants.

And Finally

Soil testing is still a free service offered by the State of West Virginia. Take advantage of it. Be specific in what 'crop' you are trying to help. Turf, i.e. your yard, has profoundly different requirements than 'Buxus', the boxwood planted around your foundation. Make specific tests; follow the specific recommendations. There are folks out there to help you. Ron Swope from County Extension, Mitch Mason of Hauge's Garden Center, or the staff at Biafore's Landscaping can offer advice. If the dirt doesn't work, nothing in it will.

Don't forget to come see us and Hauge's Garden Center at the Marion County Chamber of Commerce Outdoor Living Show. Woody Williams Armory, Fairmont. March 25 - 26.

Plant for the Season



As the seasons change from Spring to Summer to Fall to Winter and back to Spring, we are reminded that the environment is an exciting and ever changing part of our everyday lives. By utilizing plants that have interesting seasonal characteristics, we can create gardens that are as dynamic as nature itself.

Spring offers many colorful choices of perennial bulbs. Unfortunately, the majority of these plants must be planted in late fall to early winter to receive the cold temperatures needed to break dormancy. We all are familiar with the old standbys of Daffodil (*Narcissus*), Tulip (*Tulipa*), Crocus (*Crocus*) and Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus*), but there are many other choices less used in spring border. Early March offers us Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) for green-tipped white bell flowers. In late March, look for the intense blue of Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae*) and the spikey Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*). Remember to plant spring blooming bulbs where they will at least get full sun in the spring. Remove bulb foliage only after it has thoroughly yellowed.

The planting of bulbs is the work of hope and always thrilling – May Sarton

Web Sites for the Avid Gardner



- **Virtual Garden** (www.vg.com) includes a plant encyclopedia, how-to resources and forums for discussion.
- **The Garden Helper** (www.thegardenhelper.com) contains a monthly gardening calendar and basic information to “help you create your own perfect garden”.
- **Plant Ideas** (www.plantideas.com) contains specific information geared to individual plants from bog plants to perennials.

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