



Green Peace of Mind

Spring 2007

Warm Winter Meets Deep Freeze

What's In Store for Our Landscape This Spring?

Winter? What winter? In the Mid-Atlantic, it seems like we're on the fast track to spring this year. Sixty degrees in December, bulbs pushing through the soil, cherry blossoms swelling - the early months of winter were far from ordinary. Then out of nowhere, BAM! Snow showers, ice storms, and the biting wind of winter all arrived in a hurry. This left all of our favorite landscape plants (and us) a little confused.

So where does this sudden onset of cold weather leave all of the over achieving spring plants that had begun to break their dormancy? Luckily, a little tattered, but none the worse for the wear. What we will most likely see is a decreased flower production from our favorite plants this spring. Daffodils, tulips, and other early bulbs may not be as prolific as in years past because they require a certain period of dormancy. Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Cherries, and Pears may experience a decrease in flower production because they only set their flower buds in summer.

Overall plant health will not be affected by the unusual temperatures that we all experienced this winter. By summer, shrubs and trees will be in full leaf as we expect and will show no ill effects from the late onset of winter. The early bulb foliage many of us saw will produce "food" for the underground bulb which means that they will sustain this winter and come back to flower next year.



So remember, if you're a spring flower lover and you find yourself still in shorts and tee shirts this December - start doing your snow dance! Unpleasant as those cold temperatures may be - our landscape needs it!

A Note from the Editor:

It is hard to believe that we are already over a month into 2007 and another spring season is upon us. Do you remember when we were kids and it seemed like an eternity between the holidays and summer vacation? Now, seasons change with barely the blink of an eye. How quickly time slips by... So as I prepare to embark on another year at Complete - my 11th to be exact - I am determined to not let another year slip by with little to show but more gray hair. I don't make New Year's Resolutions - they never stick. Instead, I set some goals, and #1 on my career goal list is to spread "Green Peace of Mind." I don't mean just writing and distributing this newsletter. I mean bringing the whole concept to life. Trust me, if you don't already know what it is - you will before the end of the year.

-Sue Wallis



Sass Up Spring - It's Planting Time!

There is no better time of year to plant than Spring. Not only does the idea of being outside with lush plants and colorful flowers help to break us out of the winter blahs, but there's something invigorating about a little dirt under your fingernails. Maybe that's just me... Even if you don't have a green thumb, here are some tips for a successful spring planting:

- * **Choose healthy plants** from a reputable grower. Look for green leaves, strong stems, and thick white roots.
- * **Amend the soil** with organic matter like Leafgro or use a good starter fertilizer after planting
- * **Choose the right plant** for the area. Keep in mind the ultimate size of the plant. Remember, soil moisture and sun exposure play a big role.
- * **Water, Water, Water!** Infrequent, but thorough watering will help new root systems to develop and keep plants looking healthy and happy.
- * **Relax and enjoy** your hard work - it's a beautiful day in the neighborhood with plants!

Welcome Back Mark!

Mark Laidley has rejoined the Complete family and the house is overjoyed. Mark brings back over 20 years of landscape maintenance experience. With his emphasis on high quality work and customer service, Mark will help to spread "Green Peace of Mind" throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

Come and See Us...

March 20-22, 2007	Maintenance Solutions Expo
March 31, 2007	CAI 2007 Conference & Expo
April 19, 2007	PMExpo

Green Peace of Mind Goes International

We are grateful for the many employees that come to us from towns all over Mexico each season. They leave behind family and friends for nine months each year to work at Complete Landscaping. This year we wanted to say thank you. We gathered hundreds of stories from the employees - asked them what they needed most at home. Many employees from Achichipico, Mexico asked for computers and software for their local school. In January, we visited Achichipico and delivered 10 new computers to the Amado Nervo school. We sincerely hope this helps the children and families of Achichipico and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the upcoming years.

Coming Soon to Your Landscape - 'My Monet' Weigela & 'Rainbow' Knock-Out Rose

Each year, new perennials, evergreens, and flowering shrubs and trees are introduced to the green industry. These varieties are bred for more abundant or more vibrant flower color, insect and disease resistance, hardiness, and other desirable characteristics. This year, there are so many notable introductions that we couldn't choose just one, so without further ado - please welcome 'My Monet' Weigela & 'Rainbow' Knock Out Rose!

'My Monet'



A dwarf Weigela with pink and white variegated foliage and pink flowers in spring. This hardy deciduous shrub attracts hummingbirds and butterflies AND its deer resistant!

'Rainbow' Knock Out Rose



"Rainbow" Knock Out has all of the characteristic Knock Out traits. Glossy green foliage long-lasting pink and yellow blooms make this plant a great choice for a hedge or in containers.



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Spreading Green Peace of Mind

