



LITTER

After writing my Garden Spot article, I forgot to mention that Ruth Stradinger, Kim Duran and I spent 3 1/2 hours at the University Center pleading for Community Servants during the Community Service Fair. We were looking for students to help with our never-ending litter problem and students to collect prairie seed in our north campus prairie. Good news! We got one volunteer for prairie seed collection and not one person for litter pickup. My vision of human waves of volunteer litter pickers has, once again, not materialized but some day, some day soon. Never fear though, we will continue to spend over 2,000 hours a year picking up after uncaring adolescent imbeciles who need to grow up, wake up and give a damn about their planet. I am finished with my rant but, as you can all see, 2,000 hours is not enough so, to all of you people who do care about our planet, please help. If litter is in your path please, please pick it up and deposit it in the proper receptacle. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

~Steve Bertagnolli

Apple core: 1 to 2 months, can take longer in landfills due to lack of microbes



Glass bottles: tens of thousands of years; glass is made from sand and it can outlast most anything

Plastic drinking bottles: hundreds of years; consist of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) which is made from petroleum, which won't break down



Plastic bags: up to hundreds of years; newer plastic bags can photo-degrade, but most aren't exposed to sunlight when in a landfill

Milk carton: 5 years



Plastic milk jug: 500 years

Aluminum can: 80 to 200 years



Styrofoam: no sign of ever breaking down

Quote of the Month

Autumn is a season followed immediately by looking forward to spring.

-Doug Larson



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Suggested changes to the monthly newsletter format as well as electronically submitted articles are welcome. E-mail to durank@uww.edu

Landscape Tips and Reminders

Hey Hey Hort Heads, it's been awhile. How is everyone doing? Fine, I hope. Well, it is now the month of October and that means that winter is right around the corner. We in the Landscaping and Grounds Department can't wait! No, I will not bore you with a ten-page dissertation on the trials and tribulations of snow. My legions of readers have heard it all before but, if any new readers are interested, I will be conducting in-depth seminars on snow days all winter long. The seminars will begin at 1am and never end.

While my sleep patterns are fairly normal and my thinking is fairly clear, here are some tips and reminders for October:

- Keep digging and dividing your spring and summer blooming perennials, cut back the foliage, fertilize and water deeply. Do not mulch until after the ground freezes.
- Get out to the nursery and splurge! Fall is for planting!
- Get all of your new bulbs in the ground. You can plant bulbs until the soil freezes but, the sooner you get them in the better.
- Plant lots of trees and shrubs but be sure to keep them hydrated until freeze up
- There is still time in Oct. to kill broadleaf weeds—read the label
- Weed and feed--weed and feed is best when the night time temperatures are in the 30's
- If your grass is growing vigorously, you can still perform core aeration
- Fertilize trees and shrubs when they are turning color and drawing nutrients back to their roots
- As I have stated many times before, the best fertilization for your lawn is applied at the end of this month
- Make an appointment with your manicurist and orthopedic specialist

Tips and reminders for November:

- If you haven't applied your lawn winterizer, do it quickly
- Prevent tunneling mice and voles by cutting your grass as short as you can on your final mow
- Protect your hybrid roses
- Plant bulbs until the freeze
- Protect your new fruit trees, surround them with close knit wire mesh to prevent girdling from rodents
- Wrap tree tape around any newly planted soft/smooth bark trees to prevent sun scald
- Cover your hardy mums with 8" of soil

Tips and reminders for December:

- Give generously to your favorite Landscaping and Grounds Department
- Donate money for bird seed. Remember, a \$25.00 donation not only feeds our birds but you get an engraved leaf on the Bird Feeding Tree and a beautiful certificate. Do it now! In fact, I am told that and one who doesn't donate to the bird fund is totally not cool. Be cool!
- Drive and walk carefully on ice and snow **Merry Christmas!**

Shout out time, I want to express my appreciation to one of Whitewater's finest citizens, Sherry Hofer. Sherry has donated a lifetime of perennial plants to our university and it is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank former FP&M employee Ted Stradinger for the many years of fine work that he performed for our facilities. I also need to thank Randy Marnocha for all his years of servitude to the cause. Lastly, I truly need to thank our very own Michael Brown. Mike will be retiring at the end of this December. Mike spent the better part of his life maintaining and enhancing this university and there are no words that I can write that can thank you enough for your sacrifices. You will truly be missed.

Finally, I want to convey my sincere condolences to Jeff Onsrud for the loss of his mother. See you all in January!

~ Steve Bertagnolli

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Sometimes it's difficult to believe the fall season and changing colors are happening. It seems like only a few weeks ago the trees and landscape were just beginning to bloom. These things must be indication of how busy FP&M operations is and has been. And as much as one doesn't want to admit, it could be a function of age.

There are a few notes and reminders being provided.

FP&M and the UW-Whitewater campus now have a full time Sustainability Coordinator. Wesley Enterline recently assumed the coordinator role and we're looking forward to his continued successes in sustainability, energy conservation, and "greening" UWW.

This year the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has realized the largest enrollment ever. This obviously means more people on and around campus. As a pedestrian or vehicle operator, **please be very careful when driving or walking** around the university. There will be more enforcement of speed limits by University and City police officers and crossing guards to help ensure safety. As members of the University community, we can all **take added precautions, slow down and help make the campus safer.**

Engineering and an historical impact study are nearly completed for the intersection at Whiton and Main Streets. When this work is completed and approved, the stone gates at the entrance to Hyer Hall be relocated, the adjacent paved areas will modified, and signal control of the intersection will be installed. Additionally, the pedestrian crossing controls at the main street intersections of Prairie and Prince streets are being replaced. These controls will serve all pedestrians, including the disabled, much better. When this work is completed, crossing main street to and from the University will be much safer.



While we're on the subject of safety, all service staff is reminded to please proper precautions and practices with ladders, safety cones and barriers, equipment and personal protective equipment when performing services on campus and in buildings. The greatest way to safeguard against hazards, protect property, and prevent injury is through personal precaution and awareness. **Safety First!**

FP&M staff is encouraged to take some time to consider the support available through Professional Development Program. The support is available to staff individually or for staff groups who are interested in speakers or development programs being brought to campus. Staff interested the development program should contact their respective supervisor for more information or assistance.

-Greg Swanson, Director

Enjoy the upcoming holiday seasons. Our next issue comes out in January 2011.