

THE BUGGETTE



Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

HI EVERYONE. Hope all is well with you and yours!

Last time, I started telling you about our Christmastime trip along the Rhine River. This time, we'll continue the journey, visiting Cologne and Amsterdam and a few places in between.

The Rhine is without a doubt Europe's most famous waterway. Starting high in the Swiss Alps, it meanders around Austria, Liechtenstein, and France, crosses southern and western Germany, and eventually flows into the Netherlands. Its total length is 900 miles, stretching from Lake Constance, in Switzerland, to Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The Rhine is a vital shipping route with locks that operate 24 hours a day, every day. An average of 100 ships a day pass through the Alsace-Lorraine region, carrying 20 million tons of cargo. As I mentioned last time, the Alsace-Lorraine region has a remarkable history, sometimes



belonging to France, sometimes to Germany, changing between the two several times since the Franco-Prussian War.

If you go over there today, you'll notice something else remarkable about the region: **STORKS!** These giant birds nest everywhere—on church tops, office buildings, chimneys, towers. Since ancient times, it's believed that they bring good luck to wherever they are nesting.

Storks can have a wingspan as wide as ten-and-a-half feet, but about seven feet is more typical. They are very heavy birds, and they tend to soar rather than fly, which conserves energy. Their nests are huge and can be as much as six feet wide and ten feet deep. They are somewhat loyal to their mates but very loyal to their nests, using the same one year after year. It makes me think of Zsa Zsa Gabor, who said, "I am a marvelous housekeeper—every time I leave a man, I keep his house."

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CLS Goes Above & Beyond

Joel Holcomb is as top notch as they come. He always takes my calls and is always patient and polite with me, no matter how many times I ask the same questions. And my yard looks beautiful this time of year.

Jeremy Smith, Franklin

We are very pleased with the professional service provided by Arbor-Nomics and their excellent care of our lawn. They have been great to work with and are very responsive when we have asked them to respond and re-treat some weed growth. Our lawn is now a beautiful green carpet thanks to Arbor-Nomics. Bottom line is that they show they care about us!!

—Frank and Victoria Krueger, Brentwood

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Fungus & Weeds

If you have dead or brown patches in your lawn, you may be dealing with a fungus. There are several types of fungi that only respond to the application of specific fungicides. **Brown Patch** and **Zoysia Patch** are two fungi you need to be on the lookout for. A stubborn weed that pops up frequently on Nashville lawns is **Nutsedge**.



BROWN PATCH:

Large, unsightly symmetrical patches, ranging in diameter from a few inches to a few feet.



ZOYSIA PATCH:

Attacks zoysia grass, causing blades to take on a tan/orange color in small 2-inch patches. These patches can quickly expand to 20 feet or so in diameter, so taking care of it promptly is essential for the health of your lawn.



NUTSEGE:

This is known for its three-sided stems and star-like flower petals.

Call us, **329.4151**, if any of these appear, so that we can give you an estimate and "nip it in the bud" before it spreads.



FUN FACTS About Spring

- 1 Benjamin Franklin was the first American to propose Daylight Saving Time, in 1784. However, it wasn't fully implemented in the US until after the Second World War.
- 2 The practice of starting Daylight Saving Time on the second Sunday in March in the US started in 2005.
- 3 In Europe, Daylight Saving Time is known as Summer Time.
- 4 Some of the plants that have strong associations with spring include dandelions, daffodils, lilies, primroses, hyacinths, tulips, azaleas, iris and lilacs.
- 5 Dandelions originated in Asia.
- 6 Baby birds are born with the ability to sing but must learn the specific songs of their species. They acquire these songs between 10-60 days of age and begin to sing them the next spring, when they have matured.
- 7 Animals and insects associated with spring include the rabbit, frog, deer, fox, bear, bee, butterfly, ladybug and hummingbird.
- 8 Spring fever is not just a myth—the body may experience physiological changes due to changes in diet, hormone production and temperature.
- 9 Children grow faster in spring.
- 10 Spring is when birds return home after migrating in winter. About 1800 bird species migrate.



Turfgrass Watering Strategies

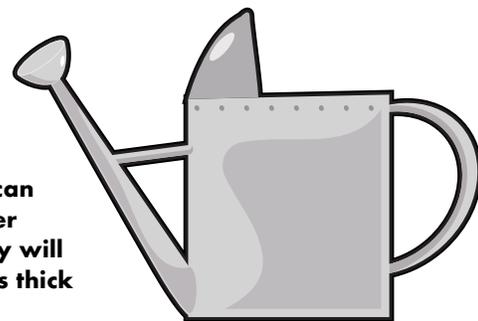
Tech Tip by Joel Holcomb

Your grass is a living plant, and one of the most important elements to its health is water. Rainfall can be very inconsistent, so proper irrigation and water conservation is very important. Watering efficiently will save water and money, as well as keep your grass thick and healthy.

The amount of water needed on a lawn is determined partly by the soil composition. Sandy or coarse textured soils absorb water much faster than clay soils. However, sandy soils retain less water and, therefore, need water more often than clay soils. Since clay soils absorb water slowly, irrigation rates should be slow and extended over a longer period.

Most turfgrasses grown in Tennessee need about 1 inch of water per week during the summer to remain green and keep growing. Different types of grass require different watering cycles. **Bermuda** grass is the most drought tolerant and can go 14 to 21 days between watering when well established. **Fescue** can perform well with 6 to 8 days between irrigation, and **Zoysia** requires the most frequent watering, with a maximum of 5 to 7 days between watering.

Proper watering should moisten the soil to a depth of about 4 inches to encourage deep root growth. You can check the depth of moisture by inserting and removing a spade or small shovel into the



soil and noting where the moisture leaves its mark. Sprinklers can take 2 to 4 hours to apply 1 inch of water. You can measure sprinkler output by placing a tuna can in the area you're watering. A tuna can will hold about an inch of water, so if it takes 2 hours to fill the can, your sprinkler output is 1 inch in 2 hours. When irrigating, watch for run-off. If run-off occurs, change zone times or move sprinklers to allow time for water to be absorbed.

When rainfall is scarce, you'll need to irrigate to give your turfgrass the 1 inch of water it needs per week. Rather than watering 1 inch all at once, it's best to water one-third inch three times a week. To reduce evaporation and decrease disease activity, water after dew formation and before sunrise. With proper watering techniques, you can have green and healthy, deep-rooted turfgrass that thrives on just as much extra water as it needs.

For more details on watering tips you can go online to **CAES Publications UGA Turfgrass Water Management**.

How to Efficiently Water Your Shrubs & Plants

Tech Tip by Sam Thomas

Landscapes that have been carefully planned will be healthier, less susceptible to insect-damage and diseases, and require less irrigation. As the need for watering increases with reduced rainfall during the summer season, there are some conservation tips that you might want to consider.

- **Group plants** with similar water and light requirements together; this allows you to match water needs within irrigation zones.
- Consider alternative ways of obtaining water, such as **collecting rain water** and **air conditioner condensate**.
- Have a professional irrigation audit to maximize the efficiency of your **irrigation system**.
- Reduce water needs by making sure plants are **planted properly**.
- Using water-absorbing gels can reduce drought stress on plants.
- Mulch with 2 to 3 inches of **pine straw**, shredded hardwood or pine bark.
- Water new plants before and after planting.
- Watch for moisture-stress symptoms, such as wilting or graying foliage. Also check soil beneath the surface for moisture, and water only plants that need it.
- Water in the early morning, evening, or nighttime to reduce evaporation.
- Avoid wasting water by using a hand-held hose, soaker hose, or drip irrigation, especially on slopes.
- Minimize foliar diseases by **watering the soil** rather than the leaves and flowers.

Proper planting, installation and management of your plants will aid in their overall performance and health. For more watering tips, you can go online to **UGA/CAES Publications/Tips** for saving water in the landscape.

Application #3

What we did today to your lawn:

1. Different lawns have different needs:

- **FESCUE** lawns received a blanket application of four kinds of herbicide for the broadleaf weeds. This time of year Brown Patch Fungus is active and causes havoc on Fescue lawns. If you see brown circular patches, call our office to arrange for an inspection and quote for a fungicide application. Cut Fescue lawns at the highest setting on your mower. This will help in lowering the soil temperature.
- **BERMUDA & ZOYSIA** lawns received a treatment of medium-release granular fertilizer. The medium-release fertilizer will provide nourishment to the grass plants until our next visit. April and May are the best months for aeration. Call our office for a quote for this service.

2. Some weeds, such as **Virginia Buttonweed**, **Yellow** and **Purple Nutsedge** and **Wild Violets**, are difficult to control and require an additional application. Please refer to the newsletter for more information on **Nutsedge** or call our office to arrange for an inspection and quote.

To your trees & shrubs: (if you are a tree & shrub customer)

1. Today we applied an insecticide to your trees and shrubs to help prevent bugs like lace bugs, aphids and Japanese beetles from settling into your trees and shrubs.
2. A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

What you need to do until our next visit:

1. You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow four hours after our application.
2. Warm season grasses such as Bermuda and Zoysia should be aerated in the spring to reduce soil compaction and increase the benefits of our applications. Call us for an estimate.
3. Keep an eye out for Brown Patch Fungus on Fescue lawns.
4. Routine trimming will help your shrubs grow better.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at **329.4151**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

THE TOWER GARDEN

One of our customers introduced me to this concept, and I thought it was so interesting, I wanted to share it with you. – Dick Bare

Grow your own food in your backyard year-round. There is no weeding, tilling, kneeling, or getting dirty! **The Tower Garden™** is a plug-and-play vertical garden that does not require you to have a green thumb. It includes everything you need to start growing and is easy to assemble. The whole family can enjoy seeing your food grow from seed to an abundant harvest. A perfect fit for patios and decks.

The Tower Garden™ can save you hundreds of dollars a year on highly nutritious food that is also clean, safe, and pesticide free. Your vegetables can grow in half the time it normally takes in the soil! Grow everything from gourmet lettuces and herbs to beautiful vine-ripened tomatoes and squash.

You can go to www.towergarden.com for more information or contact **Joyce Philpotts** at **678.777.1153** or jcpGetHealthy@bellsouth.net.



Helpful Phone Numbers

MAIN NUMBER

329.4151

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AREA MANAGER

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BEST Summer Movies

Summer is the time for blockbuster movies with the biggest stars and most expensive special effects. Here are Spike TV's (a division of Viacom Media Networks) picks for **the top ten summer movies of all time.**



10 Jaws (1975)

9 Batman (1989)

8 Independence Day (1996)

7 Transformers (2007)

6 Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)



5 Jurassic Park (1993)

4 The Dark Knight (2008)

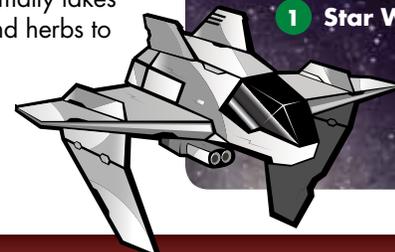
3 Back to the Future (1985)

2 Ghostbusters (1984)



1 Star Wars (1977)

SOURCE: <http://www.spike.com/articles/386pip/the-top-10-summer-movies-of-all-time>



Bare in Mind CONTINUED

While you can't help but notice the storks in Alsace-Lorraine, in Germany, it's the tremendous number of bikes and scooters on the road. They have the right-of-way, so you have to be very vigilant about them; they can be silent killers if you're on foot and not paying attention. These two-wheeled vehicles share the road with buses, trucks, and cars—practically all of them Mercedes-Benz. It was Mercedes-Benz everywhere you looked.



Karl Benz 1869

The man behind the successful brand, Karl Benz, was born out of wedlock, in Karlsruhe, Germany, to Josephine Vaillant in 1844. His father, a locomotive engineer, was killed in a railroad accident when Karl was just two years old. His mother gave him the surname Benz to honor his father, whom she had married shortly after Karl was born. Karl grew up to be a brilliant automotive engineer, inventing the first internal combustion engine and then the first car, called the **Benz Motorwagen**, in 1885.

Initially, the Motorwagen did not sell very well. But in 1888, Karl's wife, Bertha, boarded a Motorwagen with their two sons (and without Karl's knowledge) and embarked on a 66-mile trip to visit her mother. She ran into a lot of mechanical problems along the way, but in working out solutions, she vastly improved the performance and the popularity of the vehicle. Bertha's trip marked both the first long-distance automobile trip and an incredible marketing coup, and the event is celebrated every two years in Germany with an antique automobile rally.

In case you're wondering where the "Mercedes" part of Mercedes-Benz comes from, it is the name of the daughter of the first dealer of the Daimler-Benz brand.



Cologne Cathedral

Now, let's switch gears from cars to cathedrals. Cologne is Germany's fourth largest city, with more than 2.1 million people living in the metro area, and is recognized as a center for film, radio, and television production. But as its moniker, Cathedral City, suggests, Cologne's centerpiece is the **Cologne Cathedral**. It is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe and Germany's most-visited landmark. Construction began in 1248 and wasn't considered completed until 1880.

Among its many spectacular features is a 13th-century gilded sarcophagus known as the Shrine of the Three Kings. It is widely believed that the Archbishop of Cologne acquired the bones and clothing of the Three Wise Men from the Holy Roman Emperor in 1164 and that the sarcophagus contains these relics. The shrine and the cathedral really are magnificent,

and if you can't make the trip there, I highly recommend you check out some pictures on the Internet.

Moving on from Cologne, we made our way to **Amsterdam**, the northernmost port of call on the Rhine. It is Holland's largest city and is both steeped in history and very cosmopolitan. It was fabulous! Most people speak English, and familiar American-style food is easy to come by, so I felt pretty much at home in that respect. But, as you might expect, there were also some striking differences.

The first thing I noticed was the bicycles. There were thousands of them everywhere. It didn't matter if it was ten below—people were out riding bikes first thing in the morning. Another thing I noticed was the women. For some reason, the women of Amsterdam are much taller than American women. Men seem to be about the same here and there.

A visit to the **Anne Frank House** is a must if you're in Amsterdam. It was a real experience. It's hard to imagine that she and her family lived in darkness and secrecy for three years before being discovered. During that time Anne wrote prodigiously about her true feelings toward her mother, father, and sister. She was a brilliant writer for her age—very perceptive. After the war, her father, the only survivor in the family, returned to Amsterdam and learned that Anne's extraordinary diary had been saved. After reading it—and seeing that it got published—he remarked about how you never really know your kids.

On our last night in Amsterdam, Celia, our travel agent, and Kathy, a restaurant owner from Florida, wanted to wrap up the trip with a really nice dinner at a "white tablecloth" restaurant. But Sharon and I wanted to nothing more than to eat at a KFC we found downtown. We got two all-white dinners and pigged out (oink, oink!). We inhaled the mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and slurped the Cokes down. Eight days of European food had taken its toll. But we will definitely be returning to Amsterdam to further explore her beautiful canals and churches and the potent reminders of World War II.

A FINAL NOTE: We had a celebrity on the cruise, **Bill Engvall of The Blue Comedy Tour**. He and he and his wife, Gail, were a real delight to be around. They were as down to earth and as practical as could be. Please go online and watch Bill's YouTube clip on taking his wife hunting—you'll die laughing.

If you are looking for an intimate, informative, romantic and adventuresome getaway, this cruise is for you. It's hard to believe how quickly you get to know 200 people and develop lifelong friendships.

