

THE BUGGETTE



Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

THE AMISH IN AMERICA

Growing up in Ohio, and taking trips to Pennsylvania and Indiana with my parents, I'd often see and even come into contact with Amish people.

You couldn't help but wonder what it was like to live like they do: ride in a horse and buggy alongside cars, live without indoor electricity and other modern conveniences.

Since then, I have always been fascinated by the Amish culture and it seems I'm not alone. America's been tuning in to a reality show called *Breaking Amish* that premiered on TLC last year. The first season followed a group of young Amish men and women (and one Mennonite woman) on Rumspringa, an Amish tradition where youth leave the Amish community for a short time to experience "worldly" activities. The hope is that they will return to the Amish fold by choice, renouncing the American lifestyle. This group lived in New York City for a few months to experience big-city life. The show was very popular and will be back for a second season this May.

The Discovery Channel offered up its own exploration of the Amish culture with the show *Amish Mafia* (I couldn't even make this stuff up.) Apparently some Amish turn to a small,



Cast of Amish Mafia

organized group of men for protection and justice. This is a side of Amish society that exists under the radar, and Amish leaders deny the group's existence. An average of three million viewers tuned in to *Amish Mafia* every Wednesday, proving that the Amish culture is a source of fascination among Americans.

Maybe some of this fascination comes from the fact that while the Amish came to America for the same sorts of reasons as other immigrant

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7 FUN FACTS ABOUT SPRING

- 1 Spring is the subject of many a song, including Van Morrison's *Celtic Spring*, Billie Holiday's *Some Other Spring*, and Frank Sinatra's *Suddenly, It's Spring*. 
- 2 An area along the California-Oregon border is known as the "Easter Lily Capital of the World," producing 95% of the world's bulbs for the Easter lily market (that's more than 11 million bulbs each year).
- 3 "June Brides" are not as common as they used to be. Historically, June has always been the most popular month for weddings; however, statistics show that July and August have each seen more marriages than June. 
- 4 The practice of starting Daylight Saving Time on the second Sunday in March in the US started in 2005.
- 5 Dandelions originated in Asia. 
- 6 Spring fever is not just a myth – the body may experience physiological changes due to changes in diet, hormone production and temperature.
- 7 Children grow fastest in spring.



What do frogs like to drink on a hot summer day?

Crock-o-cola



Share Your Secret & Get Rewarded

Refer one of your neighbors and **GET \$50!** If any of your neighbors have commented on how good your lawn looks, give them our contact information. If they sign up for our service (by calling us at 329.4151 or visiting our website) you'll receive \$50 towards your account. Just ask them to mention your name when they sign up.

You can feel confident recommending us. In addition to being **Best Pick for 15 years by Home Reports**, we also just won our second **Angie's List Super Service Award** and are also recommended by **TrustDale.com**. The fact is the majority of our new customers come from referrals, and that is the greatest compliment you can give us. **THANK YOU!**



Weeding Out the Weeds

We apply effective weed controls every two months, but there are a few pests that are especially troublesome and require special attention. These include **nutsedge**, **brown patch**, and **zoysia patch**.



Nutsedge is a plant that is distinguished by three-sided stems and star-like flower petals. It is capable of splitting reinforced concrete slabs and forcing its way through asphalt driveways, so it shouldn't be taken lightly. Most common in Bermuda lawns, nutsedge is generally active between April and September.

Brown patch, also known as large patch, is a fungus common to the Nashville area. The beauty of a lawn can be quickly destroyed by this fungus, which appears as large, unsightly symmetrical patches. The size of the patches can range from a few inches to a few feet. If left untreated, an area in the center of the patch will recover over time, resulting in a doughnut-shaped pattern. Like nutsedge, brown patch is active during the warm months, April through September.



Zoysia patch attacks zoysia grass and becomes active as the grass emerges from winter dormancy (usually during moderate temperatures, such as in April and May). The first sign of zoysia patch is tan to orange colored grass blades in small patches, about 2 inches in diameter. These patches can quickly expand to 20 feet or so in diameter.

Treatment for these three problems requires the application of specific products. If you've noticed any of these creeping up, call us at **329.4151**, and we'll stop by to provide a free estimate for treatment.

Protecting Your Ornamental Trees & Shrubbery from Whiteflies & Aphids

Aphids thrive in the low light and cool temperatures of spring and fall. These pests threaten plants in two ways. One is by sucking out fluids from leaves and stems, thereby weakening the plant. The other, and more serious threat, is the transmission of viruses that gradually debilitate and kill some plants.

Aphids will attack any part of a plant but prefer younger growth. They reproduce quickly, and under the right conditions, a small number can bloom into a major infestation in no time. To keep an eye out for aphids, look for small black, white, green, or pink oval-shaped pests; they can range in size from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Whiteflies hide and feed on the underside of leaves, buds and stems, sucking the juice out of them. A good way to spot them is to look for "plant dandruff," as some

gardeners describe it: Look for a cloud of tiny white specks that emerge into the air when you rustle the leaves of a plant. Like aphids, whiteflies reproduce quickly, laying white eggs that hatch into white crawlers on the underside of leaves. Whiteflies thrive in sunny, warm conditions.

Call us at **329.4151** and we can apply an insecticide to help prevent these pests from settling into your trees and shrubs. Japanese beetles are not active this time of year. They are usually not an issue until July.



Application #3

What we did today to your lawn:

1. **Different lawns have different needs:**
 - **BERMUDA, FESCUE & ZOYSIA** lawns received a treatment of Arbor-Organics fertilizer. This fertilizer will provide nourishment to the grass plants until our next visit.
 - **BERMUDA, FESCUE & ZOYSIA** lawns received a blanket application of four kinds of herbicides 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 set up an inspection and quote for a fungicide application. Cut fescue lawns at the highest setting on your mower. This will help to lower the soil temperature for this cool season grass.
2. Some weeds, such as **Virginia Buttonweed, 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.
3. **Gold** customers also received a **FREE Outdoor Pest Control** application.
4. **Platinum** customers also received a fungicide to prevent fungi, an application of Outdoor Pest Control and a nutsedge/grassy weed application as needed.

To your trees & shrubs: (ONLY for Gold & Platinum Customers)

1. Today we applied an insecticide to your trees and shrubs to help prevent bugs like lace bugs and aphids 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, 7:00am-4:00pm at **329.4151**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.



Helpful Phone Numbers

MAIN NUMBER

329.4151

www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com

OWNER/PRESIDENT

Dick Bare, 678.638.4550

cell: 770.815.3879

richard@arbor-nomics.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Cash, 678.638.4548

doug@arbor-nomics.com

AREA MANAGER

Joel Holcomb, ext 1127

cell: 615.336.2114

joel@arbor-nomics.com

Mowing Tip

Mowing the same day treatment is performed is no problem as long as any application that goes on wet has dried. It's also okay to mow after an application that goes on dry, even if you bag your clippings. While we recommend frequent mowing, we also recommend letting the clippings go back into the soil. It provides nutrients, shades the soil and helps maintain the thatch layer. **Here are some recommended growing heights:**

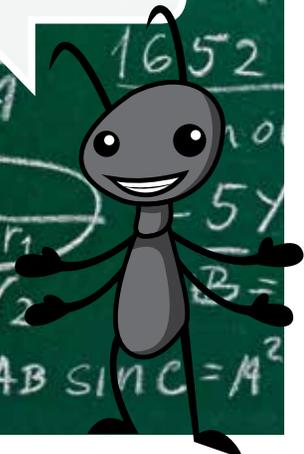
MOWING HEIGHT FOR LAWN GRASSES

Turf Type	Cutting Heights (in.)
Tall Fescue	2-3
Common Bermuda Grass	1-2
Hybrid Bermuda Grass	0.5 - 1.5
Zoysia Grass	0.5 - 1.5



What kind of ant is good at math?

An Account-Ant



groups, they have resisted assimilating into the mainstream culture but pretty much continue to thrive anyway.



Ohio Amish Country

The Amish are an offshoot of the Mennonites, a Christian sect that goes back to 16th-century Europe. (A practice that distinguishes the Amish and Mennonites from other Christian groups is anabaptism—baptism in

adulthood, when people can make the conscious choice to embrace their faith.) The Amish began immigrating to the United States from Europe during the 18th century to escape religious persecution and mandatory military service. Early immigrants settled in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and today, Amish and Mennonite communities can be found in many states and even in Canada and Central America; in fact, according to About.com, 10,000 conservative Prussian Mennonites, make Belize their home! (My oldest son, Josh, has been doing a lot of genealogy studies on our family, and it turns out that from my grandfather on back, my family was Mennonite.)

They don't believe in birth control and tend to have large families (7 children on average), so the population is experiencing relatively rapid growth. There are about 250,000 Amish in the United States, and they could be a large political faction, except they don't vote. While they do pay taxes, they neither pay into or collect social security. In fact, they use few, if any, government services.

That includes public schools. For the most part, education takes place in one-room school houses whenever possible, and children are expected to attend only through the eighth grade. Many Amish fathers have been jailed for pulling their kids out of public school after eighth grade, but when the issue eventually went before the Supreme Court, the Court ruled in favor of the Amish. Culturally, education beyond that point isn't deemed necessary to serve within the Amish community and continue a farming tradition.

Here's an anecdote I heard that illustrates the Amish philosophy on this issue. There was an Amish farmer whose farm was adjacent to an English farmer's land (the Amish refer non-Amish Americans as "English"). When the English farmer's son went beyond the eighth grade, the Amish farmer predicted that his family would someday own the English farmer's land. Well, sure enough, the English son continued his education, became an engineer, and had no interest in coming back home to take over the family farm. Instead, the Amish farmer's son bought the land, making his father's prediction come true.

It's not so much that the Amish are anti-education, but I guess you could say that their culture values community more. While neither Amish or mainstream American cultures value reliance on government, there's an important difference. Mainstream American culture values rugged individualism and self-reliance. We're all about the self-made man and self-promotion—doing it on our own. But the Amish culture discourages pride, haughtiness, and arrogance and values community interdependence, where everyone helps everyone else.

It's all about success of the group. And as a group, they seem to be pretty successful. In addition to population growth, they own a fair amount of wealth. (The Amish restaurants that you see in areas of the country that have an Amish population contribute to their wealth, and they offer some of the best food I have ever eaten.) That's another important difference between Amish and American cultures. We in the mainstream like to show off our riches. The Amish, instead, shun showy displays of any kind. You can see it in their dress, where they don't wear jewelry and, for a long time, used snaps instead of buttons. Adornments like these are considered too fancy, and fanciness and showiness, to the Amish, are just distractions from service to the family, the community, and the church (god).

Speaking of shunning, there's actually a practice that goes by that name. The Amish will shun any adult in the community who strays from the sect's values and succumbs to worldly distractions. But they are a practical group too, and their wayward brethren are welcome back into the church once they've repented.

Their practicality extends to everyday matters of living in the modern world as well. It's true that they don't use "English electricity," but they do use some sources of power. Food is kept in kerosene-powered refrigerators; generators are used to power milk-stirring machines; and I've seen some use power milking machines. Lawn mowers, string trimmers, and chainsaws may be battery or gas powered.

So what's the difference between these sources of power and electricity? I suppose a house wired for electricity could be a kind of gateway to televisions, computers, video games, and other worldly distractions. But power sources for the tasks of making a living don't encourage these distractions. I have a friend up in Indiana who owns a snowplow manufacturing company with an Amish man named Levi. Levi will not use a pick-up truck or "English" electricity but he can do all the other things necessary to keep the company running.

So it looks like the Amish have done a pretty good job of maintaining their culture and way of life amidst all the changes of the 20th and 21st centuries. But the modern world has had its impact. Traditionally, Amish children could grow up counting on having land to farm and raise their families on. But this land is becoming increasingly more expensive and scarce. As a result, more and more Amish youth end up working in other industries such as manufacturing and construction. This causes a fair amount of anguish for the Amish because it brings its members into increasing contact with the English and exposure to all the distractions they shun.

I wonder if in our fascination with the Amish, we are not secretly hoping that they will prevail—be able to resist the entrapments of modern life and still be successful. In the next issue, I'll take a look at telephones, taxi cabs, and why 20 million tourists a year take a trip to Amish country.

