

THE BUGGETTE



Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

HI EVERYONE. Hope all is well with you and yours. Last newsletter, I promised another installment on the Amish. I did some more research, including interviewing some Amish people who had been shunned, and want to share some stuff that I learned...

sort of a closer look at the starker, sterner side of Amish life.

Shunning, if you remember, is the practice of avoiding members who go against the values of the Amish church. Most of us might think this mainly impacts the place of the shunned person within the church, like not being able to take communion on Sunday. But it can mean being completely avoided by your family and all your friends too. Imagine walking into your home or encountering a friend or neighbor and being treated as if

you're not even there. You can move hours away and if a local shopkeeper is Amish and finds out you've been shunned, he might not sell you groceries.

The Amish take shunning very seriously. The folks I interviewed were shunned because of marrying an English (one of us), but other offenses range from lying and drunkenness (how many of us would have been shunned!) to adultery and murder (I'm not even going to ask). Shunned members who want to return to the fold can do so only by repenting and confessing their sins openly in church. And acceptance back into the church is acceptance back into the family and community as well. That's how tightly church, family, and community are interconnected, and I guess you could argue that there's no real line between them.

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Customer Kudos

I just want to let you know how great our lawn and landscape looks thanks to your company. We switched to your service the middle of last year. WOW. What a difference 10 months has made. Kudos to you for having the foresight to hire such a nice and knowledgeable person as Joel to head your Nashville operation. He is heads above any other tech we have dealt with in last 40 years. We especially like having the same person return to our home for every application. Joel always has time to answer any questions we have about our landscape. I know in my heart that your business will grow in Nashville with the quality person you have leading it. Just thought you'd like to know what one customer thinks of your business. Thanks again for all that you have done for us.

C. Roberts, Brentwood, TN

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Why do bananas use sunscreen?

Because They Peel



WATERING: Critical To A Beautiful Lawn

Our job is to fertilize your lawn, keep weeds at bay and take care of diseases and pests. However, watering is the other part of the equation for a beautiful lawn. This is one of the most important tasks you are charged with and it makes all the difference in the health and color of your lawn.

Your lawn should get about 1 inch of water every week. Use a tuna fish can as a measuring tool when you water. Place the can on the area being watered. When it is almost full, you know you've watered enough. This can make a critical difference in the color of your lawn, as well as in its resistance to disease.

We can assist you in finding a company to install a sprinkler system if you don't have one. If you already have a system and need advice on how often to run it, we can help you with that too.

And if you're wondering why we continue to treat during a drought, your lawn is a living organism that needs nutrients and weed control even though it is going through a dry period.

Be On The Lookout For These Diseases & Pests This Summer

Although it may be 95° and dry now, we had an overabundance of rain in March, April and May (I think that goes for January and February too!). All that rain back then could cause many lawns to have fungus issues this summer. These can affect **FESCUE**, **BERMUDA** and **ZOYSIA** lawns.

Please be on the lookout for:



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 about 20 feet in diameter, so taking care of the problem promptly is essential for the health of your lawn.

If you see these types of patches, please contact us for an estimate on fungicide treatments. These diseases require an application of specific fungicides.

When it comes to fungus, it's not pretty and it's not easy to treat:

- If you don't treat it, it will spread and can destroy your lawn.
- Whatever areas are damaged from fungus will remain damaged for the rest of the season. Our treatments can only prevent it from spreading.
- You will need three treatments to keep fungus from spreading. Each application lasts approximately 21-28 days.

There are also two pests to be aware of this time of year:



Armyworms: These pests, which look like caterpillars, can be detrimental to your Bermuda lawn in just days. They will cause brown patches on your lawn that rapidly grow bigger. If you spot birds clustered on your lawn for no apparent reason, they may be at the armyworm buffet. We can stop by to verify this, and we'll provide you with an estimate for taking care of these hungry pests.



While our Gold customers' trees and shrubs receive an insecticide to prevent **lace bugs, aphids, caterpillars** and **Japanese beetles** from settling in, those of you on the Silver program need to be on the lookout for these pests. **Japanese beetles**, for example, can be quite destructive. They feed on over 300 species of ornamental plants and trees, causing the leaves to turn brown then die and fall off.

So, while summer is a time for blossoming flowers, beautiful trees and green lawns, it's also a time for diseases and pests to feast on your property.

Here's An Interesting Fact:

We don't know if this is true or not, but we certainly thought it was a good story. In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship, and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

Manure was shipped dry because in dry form, it weighed a lot less than when wet. But once seawater hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, producing methane gas of course.



The cargo was stored below deck, and, well, you can guess what might (and often did) happen. Methane would build up, and the first time someone went below deck with a lantern... BOOM! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction 'Stow high in transit' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term 'S.H.I.T' (Stow High In Transit), which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I. I had always thought it was a golf term.

Source: Various websites



Application #4

What we did today to your lawn:

1. **Different lawns have different needs:**
 - **BERMUDA, FESCUE** and **ZOYSIA** lawns received a treatment of Arbor-Organics fertilizer. This fertilizer will provide nourishment to the grass plants until our next visit.
 - **BERMUDA, FESCUE** and **ZOYSIA** lawns received an application of a variety of four kinds of herbicides.
 - 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. **Gold** customers also received a **FREE** Outdoor Pest Control.
3. **Platinum** customers also received a fungicide to prevent fungi, an application of Outdoor Pest Control and a nutsedge/grassy weed application as needed.

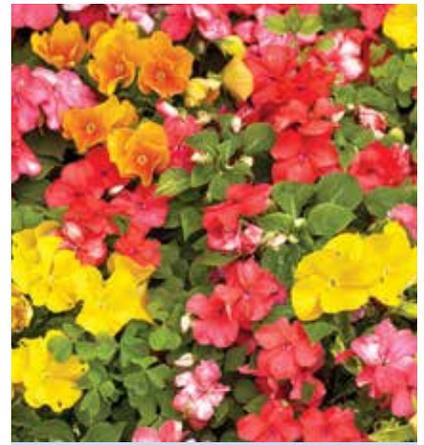
To your trees & shrubs: (if you are a tree and shrub customer)

1. We applied an insecticide to help control lace bugs, aphids, caterpillars and Japanese beetles, and a miticide to battle spider mites.
2. A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

What you need to do until our next visit:

1. During summer, all lawns should have one inch of water per week from rain or irrigation. If it doesn't rain, check with your local water authority regarding watering regulations. The best watering time is early morning. Do not water in the afternoon or evening.
2. Keep an eye out for fungus diseases, Japanese beetles and armyworms.
3. Routine mulching will help your shrubs grow better, as it helps retain water in the soil.

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

Fun Summer Trivia

- 1 The Dog Days of Summer refers to the weeks between July 3rd and August 11th.
- 2 Mosquitoes, summer's pest, have been around for more than 30 million years.
- 3 July is National Ice Cream Month. More Americans buy ice cream in July than in any other month.
- 4 Those of you who enjoy being outdoors tossing a Frisbee around have a pie maker named Mr. Frisbee to thank for the pastime.
- 5 The first bathing suit for women was created in the 1800s. It was long sleeved with woolen bloomers.
- 6 Romans began the summer wedding tradition, choosing June for the blessing of the Roman goddess Juno. The tradition has endured.
- 7 In 1816, the northeastern United States experienced snow and cold weather throughout the summer. Scientists cited a volcanic eruption in Indonesia as the cause.
- 8 The frequency of a cricket's chirps fluctuates with the temperature. If you count a cricket's chirps for 15 seconds and add 37, you will have the approximate outdoor temperature (in Fahrenheit).



Bare in Mind CONTINUED

Their religion is such a big part of their everyday life that a good bit of the day is devoted to prayer, which is always done in German. So I was surprised to learn that children and adults are actually discouraged from studying the Bible too closely. Amish leaders feel this is better left to church elders. This might be why some non-Amish think of the sect as cult-like (although many theologians do not recognize it as a cult). I guess this can be interpreted as the Amish leaders not wanting the Word to be too heavily scrutinized or questioned in any way that goes against Amish belief. Another aspect that could seem cult-like is the practice of monitoring others. Children are taught to monitor each other's behavior and report disobedience to the parents. Monitoring continues into adulthood, except then, the transgressions are reported to the church bishop.

Women's attire is also monitored. Last time, I talked about how their dress is extremely modest, right down to using pins as fasteners instead of buttons because one woman's buttons might be fancier or showier than another's. Well, I learned that they must also wear a certain head covering, even when asleep in case prayer is necessary during the night. Unmarried women wear one color, usually black, and switch to another color, usually white, when they get married. For men, marital status is marked by beards: Married men have beards, unmarried men do not.



Amish society expects and strongly encourages marriage. (Women who never marry are referred to as old maids and are held in low esteem.) This is not all that surprising given the utility of the family in Amish culture. Marriage and family are necessary for their traditionally agricultural livelihoods. Children are needed to help with farm and household work, and needless to say, having children without being married is not an option; in fact, fornication is another offense that will get you shunned. So, if nothing else, marriage and raising a family is a matter of economic necessity. In contrast, we in the mainstream culture like to view the decision to marry as a matter of romantic love (and we certainly don't see our kids as economic assets!).

The utility of marriage is further illustrated by the fact that there's no term for romantic love in Pennsylvania Dutch, which is the dialect spoken by many Amish. In fact, flirting or displays of romantic attraction of any kind are strictly forbidden and even prevented. Both adults and children are segregated by sex in church, with males on one side and females on the other, and boys and girls do not socialize in mixed groups outside the home. Co-mingling of young men and women is regulated to such an extent that I find it amazing that they end up marrying at all. With the exception of rumspringa (when young adults go out into the world to decide if they will freely return to the Amish way of life), young men and women are always chaperoned at mixed events.

The Amish culture forbids so many things we in the mainstream don't even think twice about. Take travel. While not forbidden to

travel, they are forbidden to own or drive cars or fly on planes. Their personal vehicles are horse-drawn buggies. (Instead of Matchbox cars and Tonka trucks, Amish children play with homemade toy buggies!). Horses, especially when pulling a buggy loaded with people or cargo, can handle only about 25 miles a day at most, and the Amish are allowed to use English taxis for distances over 12 miles.



Personal landlines and cell phones are prohibited too, of course, and there is generally an available pay phone located somewhere in the community for emergency use. But in reality, so I've heard, there are many cell phones hidden away in barns and closets. I imagine lusty couples use the secret contraband to communicate surreptitiously.

While not exactly prohibited, medical and dental services are not typically sought by the Amish, and they tend to rely on home remedies instead. For example, Amish parents do not have their children vaccinated. (When there was an outbreak of polio back in the '50s, the community actually underwent forced vaccinations.) But this is not to say they completely reject or mistrust conventional medical information. Maple syrup urine disorder, or MSUD, is a case in point. This is a genetic disorder that prevents certain proteins from being metabolized (broken down and used in the body) correctly. If left untreated it can result in brain damage or death in infants. Because of its small gene pool, the Amish population has a particularly high rate of this disorder. The good news is that medical research has shown that the disease is easily controlled by following an appropriate diet. Many Amish parents have readily and gratefully heeded this information, and some even participated in the medical research that led to understanding how to combat this dangerous condition.



So, what to make of the Amish? The more I study their way of life, the more they seem like an enigma. The strict control over every aspect of daily life does conjure images of a cult. But how many cults let their members freely decide whether to stay or go? What's more, young adults are allowed to explore this option at an age when they are probably most susceptible to the temptations of worldly pleasures. Then there's the austere nature of everyday life. In our modern world filled with comforts and conveniences, the Amish way of life seems unnecessarily harsh. Why would young men and women choose to stay? I don't have an answer to that right now, but I do know I'll be tuning in to the second season of *Breaking Amish* on TLC to continue learning about this puzzling culture. Hope you join me.