

THE BUGGETTE



Hi, everyone!

My name is Joel Holcomb, and for the past several years I've been your Arbor-Nomics branch manager here in Nashville. As of February 3, I'm the owner, having purchased the branch from Arbor-Nomics' parent company in Atlanta.

What does this mean for you? Well, probably not a whole lot. You'll still be getting the same great service you've always gotten from Arbor-Nomics. There will be no major changes either to our service offerings or our pricing structure. About the only differences you'll notice are that we've got a new P.O. box number and I'll be personally doing your treatments, at least for the first couple of applications. But if you have any questions or concerns about the changeover, or anything else, please feel free to call me on my cell phone at **615.336.2114**. If I don't answer, I'll call you back promptly, even if it is after hours or on the weekend. You can also reach me by email at joel@arbor-nomics.com.

Now that we've got that out of the way, let's turn our attention toward your turf. Of course, we're all ready for spring after this long and grueling winter, but what about the grass? Bermuda and zoysia will have weathered the cold just fine since they have been dormant

since November. Fescue will take a little more time as it has frozen and thawed through the various cold waves we've had. Three things need to happen over the next few weeks before it comes back around. First and most crucially, the soil has to warm up. Second, fertilizer must be applied. And finally, mowing to remove dead grass blades is key to bringing the turf back to looking like it should.



Magnolia Blossom

Trees and shrubs are a little more delicate. Hollies, magnolias and laurels have been damaged by the cold, so you will need to have these pruned so they can produce buds and leaf out.

In closing, let me just say how grateful and blessed I am to have you as a customer. Many of our new customers over the past two years have come from referrals, so we appreciate your vote of confidence by spreading the good word. My wife, Amy, and sons, Joseph (13) and Luke (11), likewise offer their thanks. And remember: You can always call me if you ever have a question or concern about your turf or landscape. It is my honor to be here to serve you. Until next time, think spring!



Lets face it...

English is a crazy language. Can you imagine how difficult it is for a foreigner to understand these sentences below?

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- We must polish the Polish furniture.
- He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- When shot at the dove, it dove into the bushes.
- I did not object to the object.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- They were too close to the door to close it.



Winter Kill In Warm Season Turfgrass

Every spring we look forward to our dormant lawns greening up. We hope for a beautiful, lush, problem-free lawn that's ready to enjoy in nice weather. How quickly our lawns green up depends more on the temperature than on the calendar. Soil temperatures need to reach 65°F, requiring our daytime highs to reach the 80's. With fluctuating temperatures, the timing of this can be unpredictable. Another issue that we see this time of year is winter kill in warm season turfgrasses.

5 Weird & Wacky Gardening Tips

1 Use rusty nails for iron. If your plants love iron (like azaleas, holly and rhododendrons), keep a covered coffee can full of rusty nails soaking in water. How does this work? Just dump the rusty water on your plant as fertilizer when needed. Then fill the can back up with water for next time.

2 Till in the moonlight. Gardening by the light of the moon is cool and breezy. That's not the reason this wacky gardening tip works, though. Tilling by the light of the moon discourages weed growth. Seeds can't germinate without the light of the sun. Make nighttime your traditional tilling time.

3 Use a pipe planter for mint. We all know mint spreads like crazy. This weird and wacky gardening tip works to keep any rapidly growing plant in check. Just plant mint and other prolific plants in a long pipe that has been buried vertically. Roots must go a long way down to spread.

4 Keep plants warm with water. Keep garden plants warm to extend your gardening season. Simply keep buckets of water in the garden during the day so the sun can heat them. At night, the heat releases gradually from the buckets to warm the garden. Double duty? Use the water for morning watering.

5 Use powdered milk for juicy tomatoes. This really is a weird and wacky gardening tip, but it seems that adding powdered milk to the soil produces the sweetest, juiciest tomatoes ever. Why? It's the calcium in the milk.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/gardening-101-five-weird-and-wacky-gardening-tips-that-work>

Here are several factors that contribute to winter kill:



Hard Soils: Turf cannot grow strong roots in compacted soils. Aeration is recommended in the spring for warm season grasses.



Improper Watering: Weather is often very dry and hot from July to October, which can weaken the turfgrass and lead to winter kill. On the other hand, too much moisture can stress lawns as well, leading to turf decline and death. Your lawn should get about one inch of water per week. Put a tuna fish can out when you water, and when it's almost full you've watered enough.



Trees & Shade: Trees take water out of the soil and shade turfgrass, both of which cause slow green up of turf. Trees should be pruned at least every two years to increase air flow in the tree, get rid of damaged and dead branches, and, cutting lower limbs and/or thinning the interior of the tree allows sunlight to penetrate and helps grass under the tree grow. Call Arbor-Nomics Nashville at **329.4151** if you'd like an estimate for pruning or any other tree service.

Thatch: Lawns with more than one-half inch of thatch are prone to winter kill. Aeration can also minimize this issue.

If you believe your lawn is experiencing winter kill, please notify your **Certified Landscape Specialist**, so appropriate action can be taken.



Surviving the Wake of Snowmagedon!

Spring might be in the air now, but our headline-making weather this winter left an astonishing amount of damage in its wake. Indian hawthorn, loquat, pittosporum, loropetalum, varieties of viburnum – these Florida plants are not winter hardy and were especially hard hit. Ligustrum, azaleas, roses, and trees with frost damage are also particularly vulnerable to borers.

We've received countless calls and emails from customers wondering how to respond to this damage. Proper pruning is crucial for protecting your trees and shrubs and helping them rebound from winter's assault. If done incorrectly, pruning can actually cause more harm than good, so it's best to leave it to the professionals.

For those of you concerned about your lawns, there shouldn't be much of a problem unless we get a late freeze when warm-season grasses are coming out of dormancy (let's hope this doesn't happen!). Actually, one of the best things you can do for your lawn is be on the watch for springtime drought. Lawns really need adequate water as they begin to spring back to life, so watch for dry spells and be prepared to water.



Application #2

What we did today to your lawn:

1. We applied a pre-emergent and a broadleaf weed control, which we also applied with the first application of the year. The pre-emergent will block the development of the grassy weed root and prevent them from growing. The broadleaf weed control will kill those weeds within two weeks of the treatment.
2. We also applied a potassium fertilizer to enhance the root structure so your grass grows stronger and thicker.
3. Your lawn received an application of nitrogen for growth and color.
4. **Gold** customers received a **FREE** Outdoor Pest Control Application.
5. **Platinum** customers receive a treatment/visit every month so this is application #3 and #4 for them. In addition to the standard lawn, ornamental tree and shrub treatments, they received an Outdoor Pest Control Application and an aeration for warm season grasses. In April these customers will also begin their fungicide program to prevent diseases.

To your trees & shrubs:

(ONLY for Gold & Platinum Customers)

1. A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.
2. An insecticide was applied to help control aphids, lace bugs and leaf hoppers.
3. And finally, a foliar fertilizer was applied for spring color. This fertilizer is great for acid loving plants. This will help your trees and shrubs begin a healthy new life in the spring to keep them strong throughout the summer.

What you need to do until our next visit

1. If you are going to mow your lawn during March and April, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades at each cutting. You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow the same day we've applied our products.
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. If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm at **329.4151**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

Here are some reminders for getting in gardening shape and staying there:

- Pace yourself. Do the hard stuff first, before you're tired out and more likely to overexert.
- Don't hunch. If you squat when you weed, keep your back as straight as possible, and move along as you weed, don't reach too far.
- When lifting, always bend from the knees, not the waist, and try to keep your back straight. Use your thigh muscles to do the lifting. Move your feet closer to the object you are lifting and take a wide stance, to balance yourself. Keep the object close to you as you lift it.
- Don't lift and twist in the same movement.
- Kneel on both knees at the same time to avoid the temptation to twist or strain. Use a knee pad.
- Use tools with comfortable handles. Wrap the grip with an old piece of hose or coat with rubber paint, for gripping comfort. Remember to change hands from time to time.
- When using long-handled tools, stand straight and keep your knees relaxed. If you need to twist or pivot, step into the twist to ease tension on the back.
- Get out that wheelbarrow or wagon and use it.



Helpful Info

MAIN NUMBER

329.4151

www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com

OWNER

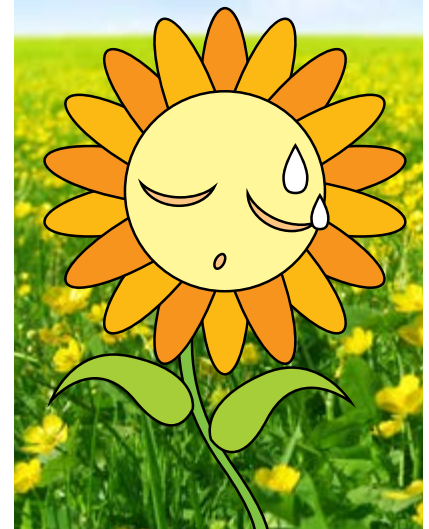
Joel Holcomb

Cell: 615.336.2114

joel@arbor-nomics.com

Why is everyone
so tired on the
1st of April?

Because they've just finished a
long, 31 day March!



PLATINUM

GOLD

SILVER

What's YOUR Pick?

You might not be aware that we offer three service programs at Arbor-Nomics®. The Silver program includes lawn service; the Gold program includes lawn, ornamental tree and shrub services; and the Platinum program includes everything.

Top 5 Reasons to Upgrade from Silver to Gold:

- 1 You get 4 Free Outdoor Pest Control treatments.
- 2 The ornamental tree and shrub care program protects from insect damage and disease.
- 3 The program also makes trees and shrubs more resistant to drought.
- 4 Your ornamental trees and shrubs will have a better look and a stronger color.
- 5 Gold is more valuable than silver!

Top 5 Reasons to Upgrade from Gold to Platinum:

- 1 Monthly visits year-round
- 2 Includes aeration or overseeding
- 3 Includes fungicide treatments
- 4 Includes grassy weed treatments
- 5 Includes even more

Visit www.arbornomicsnashville.com to see the full list of services included in the Platinum Program.

Tree & Shrub Tech Tip

Spring is a favorite time to plant ornamental trees and shrubs for their color and beauty. Since there are more choices at garden centers in the spring than at any other time of year, it's a good time to add to your home's landscape.

There are a few things to keep in mind. The root growth that occurs in ornamentals planted in the fall provides a tremendous advantage over ornamentals planted in the spring, especially if irrigation is not available or if there is drought or extreme heat (common for our summers). Also, a large number of plants are killed between leaving the nursery and being planted because of mishandling.

Here are some tips for giving your spring-planted ornamentals a better chance of survival:

- Survey the planting site: Make sure to pick the correct plant for the site. For example – evergreen Azaleas will never thrive in full sun and Leyland Cypress will die in the shade.
- Check the soil for hazards such as rocks, construction debris, poor drainage, tree roots, etc.
- Always select fresh, high quality plants. Container grown plants should have healthy vigorous tops and white feeder roots on the outer edge of the root system. Avoid purchasing pot bound plants.
- Water plants thoroughly before and immediately after planting to settle soil and eliminate air pockets. Proper watering is especially important during the establishment period; monitor the soil to make sure it's not too wet or too dry.
- Proper application of mulch is very important. Cover an area 3 to 4 times the size of the root-ball with 3 to 4 inches of mulch. This helps conserve moisture, maintain soil temperatures and inhibit weed growth. Avoid letting the mulch touch the stem or trunk of the new plant.
- Prepare the hole properly. Never put a ten-dollar plant in a two-dollar hole. A planting hole twice as large as the root ball encourages rapid root growth and plant establishment. In poorly drained soils, dig the hole 1 to 2 inches shallower than the root ball; make sure you peel back the cloth burlap and call the office to discuss systems for securing the trees or shrubs for the first year of growth. Many plants are killed in their formative years from improper guy wiring of the plant. This will raise the roots and let water drain away from them. After planting, cover the exposed part of the root ball with soil and then mulch.
- Allow trees and shrubs time to become established before applying a strong fertilizer. A starter fertilizer is fine to use when you first plant your tree or shrub. Remove plastic burlap completely. Also check for and remove girdling nylon twine as it will kill the plant a few years down the road if not removed.



What does the Easter Rabbit get for making a basket?

Two points! Just like everybody!