

The BUGGETTE

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Application #4/2009

an ARBOR-NOMICS NASHVILLE Newsletter

Fall is Prime Time to Feed Your Trees

If you have any trees more than 20 feet tall that have a thinning canopy, poor color or have recently been stressed by nearby construction and heavy equipment, fall is the best time to feed them for the entire year. This is because the fall is when the majority of a tree's root development occurs.



Arbor-Nomics offers a deep root/soil injection, which provides trees with the micronutrients and fertilizers they need for 12 whole months. The average cost of this treatment is \$125 although final cost is based upon the size and type of tree you have.

Please call 615-329-4151, ext. 2 for an estimate.

The Gnome Knows

Questions and Answers with Professor Blade, our resident gnome



Q. I recently purchased a foreclosed home and the lawn has been severely neglected. It's basically covered in kudzu. I want to plant grass this fall, but what should I do about the kudzu beforehand? I've been told to get a goat – a comment always followed by a chuckle. But isn't there a more feasible solution for a city dweller?

A. Yes, goats are often mentioned as a popular way to eradicate pesky kudzu – they love to feast on it. But I agree that goat ownership in a metro area is somewhat impractical. Plus, your neighbors would probably frown upon it.

However, kudzu does need to be eliminated before you plant any grass because it kills other vegetation.

At Arbor-Nomics we recommend the Vegetation Control treatment before undertaking any type of lawn conversion such as laying sod or changing from one type of grass to another. This treatment can be applied to lawns or wooded areas all year long and will help you get rid of kudzu as well as underbrush. The number



continued on page 3



Bare in Mind

by Dick Bare

Hi Everybody!

Hope all is well with you and yours.

My wife and I had a real experience a few weeks ago. We went with our church to Israel for two weeks. There were forty-two people in our group, including our minister and his wife. There was a bit of an age range, with the youngest, us, in our very early sixties and folks around eighty. It was a real trip to be around all those elderly people.

One man, for example, who I've known for years came up to me and asked me how I've been. "Great!" I exclaimed, "How are you?"

"Terrible, terrible," he muttered, "Memory's going – for instance, I can't remember if you or your brother died." These people don't even like to buy green bananas. Trouble is most of them are only five to ten years older than us, so we got a good idea of the perils awaiting us.

It was a long, twelve-hour flight on a brand new 777. My knees were smack up against the seat in front of me. To add insult to injury, the guy in front of me kept putting his seat back! I got so mad I called Dial-A-Prayer, but they hung up on me. We flew back with a man from Jerusalem, who told us to fly British Air to London, and then El Al or something on to Tel Aviv. They don't treat customers like sardines.

We landed in Tel Aviv and it was a beautiful, modern city. We boarded a bus with our

continued on page 4

Problem: Fescue looking a little thin

Solution: Fall aeration and overseeding

Did you know that your fescue lawn is a cool temperature grass and heat actually damages it? Its saving grace in the warm Nashville summers is its extensive root system, which efficiently draw on soil moisture. Therefore, if you are seeing patches and thinning areas in your fescue lawn, it probably means the root system is compromised because of a lack of air, water and nutrients. But there is an easy way to thicken it up quickly – do a fall aeration and overseeding.

Aeration breaks up plugs of soil, which benefits your lawn by:

- Improving air exchange between the soil and atmosphere
- Enhancing uptake of water and fertilizer by the soil
- Improving turfgrass rooting
- Reducing soil compaction
- Enhancing tolerance to the stresses of heat and drought
- Improving resiliency and cushioning

And what about overseeding?

Fescue tends to thin out over time, so occasionally you need to overseed it. Overseeding a lawn is just what it sounds like. Namely, you're sowing seed over existing grass in order to fill in the bare patches and thicken the lawn overall. And you aerate it first so it can receive the maximum benefit of overseeding.

Together aeration and overseeding make your lawn thicker and healthier.

Call 615-329-4151 ext. 2 or visit our website, www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com, to schedule this treatment.

10%
Off

Restore the lush, green look of your lawn with Arbor-Nomics aeration and overseeding services. Receive **10% off** when you order aeration and overseeding services by October 15. Call to learn more. (Expires 10/15/09)

Prices are based on square footage.



The tight pores of compacted soil prevent root growth.



Aeration enables the roots to grow deeper, stronger, and larger, producing a thicker, stress-resistant lawn.



Application #4

What we did today To your lawn:

Different lawns have different needs:

FESCUE lawns received a blanket application of four kinds of herbicides was applied 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 in lowering the soil temperature for this cool season grass.

BERMUDA AND ZOYSIA lawns received a treatment of medium release granular fertilizer. Warm weather stimulates lawns to grow. The medium release fertilizer will provide nourishment to the grass plants until our next visit.

For optimum results, please water your lawn within a week of treatment if it does not rain.

To your trees and shrubs:

(if you are a tree and shrub customer)

- 1) We applied an insecticide to help prevent lace bugs, aphids, caterpillars and japanese beetles from settling into your trees and shrubs 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 once 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) When mowing, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades at each cutting. For optimal appearance, fescue lawns should be mowed every 5-6 days, Bermuda every 2-5 days (depending upon the type of Bermuda grass) and Zoysia every 5-8 days. You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow immediately after we've applied our products.
- 3) Keep an eye out for Brown Patch Fungus.
- 4) Routine trimming will help your shrubs grow better.

Helpful Phone Numbers

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<<< continued from page 1

The Gnome Knows

of applications will depend upon the types of vegetation you need treated.

With the kudzu eliminated, you can plant your grass. Keep in mind that in the Nashville area, fall is the best time to plant fescue, because the root system needs to be strong before the summer heat arrives. The next best time to plant it is late winter or early spring.

To learn more about Arbor-Nomics Vegetation Control treatment call 615-329-4151, ext. 2, or visit our website, www.arbor-nomicsnashville.com.



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Bare in Mind...

<<< continued from page 1

guides, Jimmy and George (the driver), and off we went on our adventure. Israel has an area of 7,500 square miles, divided into 7 districts. The population is 7.2 million, not including areas under Palestinian control (5.7 million Jews, 1.5 million Christians and Arabs). Rainfall varies from about 40 inches per year in Jerusalem to 1 inch in the desert and 5 inches at the Dead Sea.

Our hotel was on the Sea of Galilee. That was a beautiful spot, too. The hotel had huge ficus trees like you see at the malls lining the entrance drive. I'll bet they were 50 feet tall! There were lots of giant eucalyptus trees too.

The Sea of Galilee is not really a sea but a large freshwater lake. It is 14 miles long by 6 1/2 miles at its widest point. It is about 600 feet below sea level. The lake contains tilapia, bass, trout, mullet, and sardines. However, they have been in a drought, like us, for about 10 years and the lake is down quite a bit.

We took a boat ride across the lake. We went fishing and I caught one but it was too small to keep, so me and three other guys threw it back. We passed a boat of Israeli fishermen, and we asked them if the fish were biting. "Biting!" they exclaimed, we have to hide below deck to bait our hooks!

We spent the first week in northern Israel and then the second in southern Israel. The northern

half gets more rain and it is prettier. The south is arid – a large desert covered with rocks. Actually if someone asked me

to sum up the country in one word, it would be rocks. I never saw so many boulders and stones. The scenery was spectacular; it was like Switzerland but all rocks, not many trees. You'll be down in one valley and look up and there is a mountain range big as Mt. Everest. It has its own beauty, like California and New Mexico.

All the homes and buildings are the same color, kind of a bland stucco, but they have an innate beauty in their design. Very few homes are finished – the second or third story has rebar sticking up, ready to add another story for adult children who want to move in with their families. Israeli's don't have mortgages; they pay as they go, so there is no mortgage crisis.

Major industries in Israel: 1) Manufacturing of arms and ammunition, 2) Agriculture (Israel exports fruits and vegetables to Europe), and 3) Tourism. Israel grows so many olive trees that all members of the country participate in the harvest. All of the kids get out of school and people get off work. The country is even powered by giant utilities that burn olive oil. There are olive oil presses everywhere. Ninety percent of the land is owned by the government, only 10% is privately owned.

One thing we saw that was amazing, could have been a scene right out of your kid's Sunday school. You know how they have those pictures of the shepherds tending their sheep and goats on the side of a hill? The shepherd has on his traditional robe and the white cloth (Keffiyeh or headdress) on his head with the two ropes (agal) to hold it on. So there they were, right out of that picture, except they were talking on cell phones! Same thing with the Bedouin herder tribes, nomadic people who move all over the desert – they had satellite dishes on their shacks.

Another noteworthy experience was the street vendors. These poor people can really

persuade. They make retail merchants in Atlanta look like kindergarteners in the art of solicitation. At every stop they would cascade on us, selling everything from soup to nuts. They would get mad at us if we didn't buy whatever they had, and they would give it to us to keep for free. Then we'd be in a tug of war to give the article back. They were profoundly poor in so many instances, no teeth, no shoes, boney and rickety, we finally just started giving each one two dollars and that worked somewhat well. Most of them considered it a handout though and refused it. They didn't want any handouts, very proud. We cried over some of the children, just rocks and a tent, bare feet, etc.

The Dead Sea – now that is not a lake. It is the lowest place on the face of the earth, 1300 feet below sea level. It is a source of table salt and many other minerals by evaporation. It is also an important source of revenue for Israel and Jordan, who share the sea. The scenery around it was spectacular. Fourteen hundred feet above it was two of Herod's palaces. There was a tram that went way up to take you there (Masada). On the ground level there was a beautiful gift shop. I got a Jewish lucky charm: a rabbi's foot.

We went swimming in the Dead Sea. You are so buoyant that you can barely walk out to the deep water. The mud is really black and Israeli's and Palestinians smear it all over themselves for medicinal purposes. All you can see are their eyes. It was quite hilarious.

I have so much more to share with you, but you'll have to wait for the next "Buggette" to hear about it. Next up: The Market in Jerusalem, King Herod and the food.

