



Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

Tel: (Mobile) 0773 903 6715

Email: antonyturnbull@hotmail.co.uk

Autumn time 2012 Newsletter.

Thanks again to everyone for being so understanding during this unsettled season. It's been a difficult season for regular maintenance due to the regular wet weather we've all experienced. It's also resulted in some extraordinary, almost 'tropical' growth, where some plants have put on huge amounts of growth – just ask my father-in-law about his lavender!



On the plus side, for landscaping work the wet weather has resulted in less watering being required for newly laid turf and plants. New lawns and plants have been able to establish far more easily than in a typical year. On the subject of landscaping, we've taken on more landscaping work this year since expanding the workforce. Chris Brock has been a great asset to the team since March with his knowledge, skill and approach to Client care. We plan to offer increased landscaping services over the winter and into 2013.

At the end of the newsletter there are photographs of a landscaping job from this season. Working with the garden owner to implement their *vision* of a garden based around extensive planting, flowing curves and circles which can be enjoyed in all weather from outdoors at ground-level to indoors looking out from the first floor windows.

CONTACT DETAILS

The existing email address (antony_turnbull@hotmail.com) will continue, however, we now have a new simpler email address **antonyturnbull@hotmail.co.uk**



Please note that during the season we have experienced intermittent problems with the landline number. Until the problem is resolved, it will be best to call the mobile number – **0773-903-6715**.

AUTUMN LAWN CARE

As day length shortens and temperatures fall, mowing becomes less frequent. **Cutting height should be raised** slightly to help protect the grass from the harshness of winter. If required, **scarify** the lawn to remove build up of thatch and allow light and air into the lawn. An **autumn lawn feed** can be applied. Autumn lawn feed is **low** in nitrogen, which encourages leafy growth, as the focus is now on the roots and general health of the grass which is provided by potash and phosphorous.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION

We recently came across a plant which looked very much like a conifer and identification may fox many of us. Please take a look at the plant to the right, can you identify it?

Chris identified the plant as a Hebe 'James Stirling' from his plant identification in horticultural classes at Kirkley Hall.

'James Stirling' is a dense, low, spreading evergreen dwarf shrub with bright ochre-coloured, scale-like leaves with small, white flowers from late spring.



SOME AUTUMN TASKS TO CONSIDER

Fences and gates –check fence condition and renew / repair if required. Also check any garden **Sheds** for security and weather protection, re-felting if required.

Bulbs - now is the time to be thinking about planting spring flowering bulbs such as: crocus, daffodil, snowdrops and tulips. Bulbs can be planted in beds, borders, lawns, pots and some, such as the miniature trumpet shaped daffodil 'Tete-a-Tete', do very well in rockeries too! Muscari (grape hyacinths) go particularly well with Tete-a-Tete.



Muscari and Tete-a-Tete



Hedge planting – this is the ideal time to plant deciduous hedging, such as beech and hawthorn, using bare rooted plants, a much less expensive option to using container plants during the growing season.

COST SAVING TIP!

As a rule of thumb the smaller the plant, the less expensive it is to buy and they tend to establish more quickly into the bargain!

Hedge trimming – last chance to trim hedges before winter frosts arrive.



Pruning autumn and winter months are an important time in the garden life cycle for pruning certain plants to ensure plant health and vigour and encourage flowering or fruit production next year. As a rule of thumb, **don't** prune any spring flowering plants as this may remove their flower buds!

Leaf clearing from lawns and borders helps to keep the garden tidy and prepare the garden for the winter.



WILDLIFE TIP!

With leaf clearing - be sure to do this before hedgehogs hibernate!

Winter digging is a natural way, using winter frosts, to help improve soil structure and allow oxygen to enter compacted soil as well as encouraging birds to dive in and feed on any slugs! Winter digging also provides an ideal opportunity to add in compost, manure or sand depending on the soil type and condition to improve the soil

Patio cleaning - from October to February I provide a pressure washing service for small areas of paving flags and/or concrete (not block paving).

Butt care - if you will pardon the expression! As winter approaches, if you don't intend to use the water butt it's a good idea to drain the water out and give the butt a rinse out leaving it clean for over the winter period. This prevents the water stagnating and from harmful bacteria building up which may then be unknowingly transferred to the garden next season. If the water butt is connected to the drainpipe, disconnect the feeder pipe into the butt to prevent it from refilling. Without water in the butt will be light and could blow over, so it may be worth moving it into a shed or garage.



GIFT VOUCHERS

An ideal gift for a special occasion for any garden lover or better still non-garden lover! A Lawn Care and Garden Services gift voucher can be used for anything from grass cutting or planting to a consultation on ideas and ways to change or improve a garden.



TO BE OR NOT TO BE?



Finally, on a cheery note we were in London visiting our daughter and son-in-law just after the Olympic Games and our son-in-law told us about the new Olympic 'Shakespeare' quotation. You may need to say this out loud to be effective
"To trot or not to trot, that is equestrian!" I love it and think it may either be a 'play' on words or simply horse-play

Happy gardening and please call if you need help with any of the above

Tony.

LANDSCAPE PICTURES- A VISIONARY GARDEN

BEFORE



AFTER



Above - sculptured and shaped lawns,
widened borders with planting.

To the right – a wooden bridge, a
Japanese Acer and planting lead to a fine
stone circle



Above - one of two new
rockeries



The creative and visionary abilities of the garden owner were implemented when we introduced the flow, curves and circles to this most impressive garden. Hard landscaping was used to install a fine stone circle at the end of wooden bridge. Lavish soft landscaping was used with the addition of many new plants to the garden. Lawns were repaired and shaped. Large conifers were trimmed and shaped. Hard and soft landscaping techniques were used to create 2 new rockeries.