



Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

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Autumn Newsletter.

Welcome to the autumn newsletter. Well we certainly had a very pleasant summer with some consistent spells of fine settled weather. As a result, our gardens have flourished with fast and furious spurts of growth at times, especially after occasional rain followed by long, hot, sunny days making perfect growing weather!

Autumn is a good time to: **plant bulbs** which flower in the springtime; **plant winter flowering bedding plants**; **planting** in general; **laying new lawns** and preparing to 'put the garden to bed' for winter.

AUTUMN LAWN CARE

During the autumn time the grass starts to slow down, as the temperature drops and daylight hours reduce, and as a result mowing becomes less frequent. Autumn is the time to prepare the lawn for the dormant winter period. Key points to consider include; **not** encouraging new leafy growth (e.g. by applying spring / nitrogen rich feeds or continuing to mulch mow) and ensuring the roots are strong and healthy. The best way to do this is by raising the mower height slightly, collecting the cuttings and considering an **autumn lawn feed**. Autumn lawn feed is low in nitrogen but high in potassium and phosphorus which encourage healthy root development and resistance to disease.

Autumn is also a good time to **scarify** the lawn to remove thatch and moss which can quickly build up over the ensuing damp, dull winter months. If the lawn has become compacted, for example from heavy foot traffic or playing football etc on the lawn, then it can be helpful to **aerate** the lawn to allow the water to penetrate down to the roots and encourage healthy root development.

FESTIVE WREATHS HAND MADE IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

I recently met Robert, a nursery man who runs a nursery at the foothills of the Cheviot Hills. During the quieter winter months Robert and his team hand craft beautiful fresh Christmas holly wreaths in time for Christmas. All of the foliage; conifer, holly and cones are sourced locally in Northumberland.

If you would like to order one of these beautiful wreaths, please use the attached order form or the contact details at the top of this newsletter. I will deliver the wreath fresh to your door in good time for Christmas.



FENCING AND GATES.



Gates - we have supplied and installed a number of custom made gates this season from 3ft to 6ft in height. To the left is one example of a solid closed boarded gate which we supplied and installed for a Client.

Fencing - in addition to open boarded, closed boarded, trellis and panel fencing we are also now able to supply and install **feather edge board fencing** which offers complete privacy as the fence boards overlap and there is no gap between the boards. A good option for areas where privacy is the top priority.

Antony Turnbull (City & Guilds Horticulture, LANTRA) Trading as Lawn Care and Garden Services. Est. 2009.

- ◆Fencing ◆Garden Sitting ◆Hedge Trimming ◆Landscaping ◆Planting ◆Pruning
- ◆Tree work – chainsaw work and small tree (up to 5 metres) felling
- ◆Lawns •aeration •mowing •mulch mowing •scarifying •over-seeding and top dressing •Turfing

Borders – a celebration!

During the season we've had the privilege of working in many gardens and I thought it may be interesting to see a selection of borders and plants with the kind permission of our Clients. Many thanks to everyone who has allowed us to share these lovely pictures.



Tigridia pavonia

First to **Kenton** where a client discovered a "new" plant in their garden which was very beautiful; their research revealed "it is called a Tiger or Peacock flower...proper name *Tigridia pavonia*". The flower only lasts about a day before curling inside itself". Our Client also discovered "that some stems produced two flowers, so doubly beautiful *Tigridia pavonia*".

Next to **Chapel Park** and a fine example of a giant sunflower which was over 11ft tall at the time of taking this picture and was still growing!



Seaton Delaval as always produced a splendid and colourful display of summer bedding with lobelia at the front of the border, marigolds behind and then antirrhinums, *Antirrhinum* are commonly known as **dragon flowers** or **snapdragons**, from the flowers' resemblance to the face of a dragon which opens and closes its mouth when laterally squeezed. They are native to the rocky areas of Europe, the United States, and North Africa.



And to **West Moor** and how about this for a fabulous display of hydrangeas which followed on from a superb display of roses in a garden. The Client recently added a new *Hydrangea macrophylla* blue lace cap (left) to the border and what a delicate and lovely flower it is. A great example of finding a plant which does well in the garden and then introducing more.



And in **Killingworth** a lovely example of a low maintenance courtyard style garden with an orchard of fruit trees planted in large pots, a superb rockery, a border with *Cotoneaster*, *Choisya Ternata* 'sundance' and roses and a border with prolific flowering *Cistus* also known as a rockrose.



Choisya



Cistus



Rudbeckia 'Goldstrum'

To **Brunton Park** and a fine example of a striking perennial. Very useful for late summer through autumn flowering. *Rudbeckia* 'Goldstrum'. Prefers sun or partial shade and thrives with a moist bottom! Sounds like the 'Great British Bake Off' but in this case it means it likes damp conditions. Grows to about 60cm and looks great in front of *Verbena bonariensis*.

Happy gardening! Tony