



Lawn Care and Garden Services

... an environmentally friendly way

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Summer time 2012 Newsletter.

Welcome to the latest newsletter. Following around five weeks of unsettled, wet weather the sunshine returned late in May. As a result the growing conditions were ideal for many lawns, plants and weeds alike! It looks like we're heading back into a cool, damp and unsettled start to June. This type of unsettled very wet weather makes regular maintenance difficult at times when appointments have to be rescheduled but the lawns and weeds show no mercy as they continue to flourish. May I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all our regular Clients who have been patient during this period. Let's hope the rest of the season proves to be less eventful.

WELCOME TO CHRISTOPHER BROCK

I'm delighted to introduce Christopher Brock (Chris) who is working with me on a part-time basis during the season. Chris has been working mainly on the larger landscape and one-off jobs where his skill and effort has been greatly appreciated by Clients and by me! Chris has a fascinating background which includes 5 years experience in organic growing in Somerset and Valencia, Spain. Chris is currently undertaking further study, 2 days a week, for a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture, at Kirkley Hall. Chris' background in organic growing will strengthen our approach to offer an environmentally friendly service. Hopefully, you may meet Chris in the months ahead.



An historic moment as our first member of staff Chris (left) completes lawn care (scarify, aerate, top-dress & over-seeded) for Mr Anderson (right) who was the first regular client of Lawn Care & Garden Services when the business established in 2009.

FORSYTHIA – 'GOOD GAME GOOD NAME!'



Ever wondered how Forsythia got it's name? William Forsyth (1737–1804) was a Scottish botanist. He was a royal head gardener and a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society. A genus of flowering plants, Forsythia, is named in his honour. William is also the great, great, great, great grandfather of Bruce Forsyth!

Forsythia flowers in early springtime and is a useful plant to use for hedging or as a specimen plant. Stems can also be cut just before the flowers open and used in indoor flower arrangements where the flowers will open up nicely indoors. Forsythia can grow very quickly which can be useful to fill gaps or act as screening perhaps. As Forsythia flowers on growth from the previous season, the time to prune it back is in late spring / early summer after it has flowered.

LAWNS

Last year many lawns suffered from reduced growth due to drought conditions. This spring we are seeing the exact opposite due to ideal growing conditions after 5 weeks of wet weather followed by a hot and sunny end to May. In a few cases lawns (often with a high content of meadow grasses) have put on 6 inches of growth in 2 weeks! Ideally, lawns should be mowed once or twice weekly during the main growing season, however, where a fortnightly mowing cycle is in operation there are some things which can be done to help discourage rapid growth. For example avoid the use of applying nitrogen rich lawn feed and collect grass clippings rather than mulch mowing which feeds the lawn and encourages leafy growth.

If replacing the lawn or laying a new lawn, choose the turf or seed carefully. Avoid meadow grass as this can grow at a rapid pace and unless you own a paddock or are looking to graze sheep then it's **not** the right choice for a domestic garden. There are various types of annual and perennial meadow grass (e.g Poa pratensis – smooth stalked meadow grass) this can usually be identified by the rough broad leaf blade sometimes shiny on one side and rough and dull on the other.



Meadow grass

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.

Happy gardening!

Tony.



A fine display of Pyracantha decorating a bungalow wall with a rich display of pomes! Pome after the Latin word for fruit: pōmum, is the term for fruit on certain flowering plants. Pyracantha is a thorny evergreen large shrub and a member of the genus Rosaceae. Common names include Firethorn or Pyracantha. They are native to an area from Southeast Europe east to Southeast Asia. Pyracantha resembles and is related to Cotoneaster, but have serrated leaf margins and numerous thorns whereas Cotoneaster is thornless.