

Gardening & Landscaping Tips

By: Max Phelps

Landscape Watering in Winter

Homeowners think of watering their plants when it is hot and dry. All the more so when they hear about water use restrictions. But completely forgetting about your trees and other plants after a frost or freeze and weekly watering must continue all winter. Soaker hoses or automatic sprinkler systems, are enemies of plants when the ground is already

until the following spring can be a tragic mistake.

I don't mean to imply that daily soaking wet from rain or snow,

Some selective watering from a garden hose in the winter at time when the ground is not frozen does indeed make sense.

While the bigger winter, and

spring problem is often too much water, especially in clay soils or those that perk slowly, some plants may need an extra drink in the winter.

Examples of stress for lack of water come to my mind from experience. Evergreen, any plant that still has green leaves during the winter, still give up water to the wind and sunshine in winter. So they only have a certain amount of sap in the stems and leaves to lose before demands are placed on the root system. They can get real thirsty when the humidity is low and drying winds are blowing. Even more if it is sunny too.

Compounding of this drying problem occurs if the ground is frozen, or bone dry, or the evergreen plant is against the house and protected from rainfall reaching its roots.

(I have hesitated to recommend watering in winter because more plants die from wet soggy water-logged conditions than from dry con-

ditions.)

Here are some examples of plants that may need care in winter, or at least monitoring. (Recently transplanted shrubs and trees especially should not be forgotten about in winter.) Pines, spruces, hemlocks, laurels, large leaved hollies, rhododendrons, azaleas, peris, traxus, junipers, arbutus, southern magnolias with their big green leaves.

It is so sad to see good plants fail to grow, or die, especially when a timely drink might have been all it took to make them grow and thrive. And the evergreen plants that continue to beautify all season long are most likely to suffer on dry windy winter days.

Watering is something we should not forget to do just because it is cold outside if we have evergreen trees, shrubs, groundcovers in our landscapes.

Renovating grass hay fields with red clover

By: Tom Mills,
County Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources

Is it cost effective to seed red clover into grass hay fields?

For years farmers have used the dark of February's moon as a time to overseed clover into fescue or orchard grass. By adding clover through the renovation process, grass fields are improved in three ways.

Clover will add nitrogen to the soil and benefit surrounding grass. As much as 180 pounds of nitrogen may be added. With current nitrogen cost this year, clover renovation may be worth as much as 400% of urea or just over \$45 per acre.

The second benefit to adding clover is the improved quality of feed. Clover is a higher protein feed that animals prefer over grasses such as endophyte infected fescue and orchard grass. Clover will also grow best during mid summer when other grass has stopped. Clover will fill in during mid summer, increasing the total yield.

The third benefit to adding clover is that fescue hay and pastures infected with the endophyte fungus is diluted. The endophyte fungus has silently lowered cattle production through its detrimental effects during summer months and can carry through in hay. Adding clover dilutes the amount of fescue

available and gives animals a choice. Clover being more abundant and preferred by animals, will then become a larger part of their diet. Keep in mind that cattle continuously grazing red clover will kill the stand out because of close grazing. A rotational grazing system of 7 days on and 30 days off is necessary to keep red clover in pasture.

Lowering fertilizer cost, increasing yield and improving the quality of feed available to livestock makes clover very cost effective. However, clover varieties vary in results.

Research at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture has compared the performance of common or uncultivated clover with that of better certified varieties. The cost of better varieties has traditionally been as much as \$1 more per pound. However, in 2002 the additional cost is less than 25 cents. An additional seed cost of \$2 per acre was worth over 3500 pounds additional hay over the first 2 years. Stands of the certified varieties were thick and vigorous going into their second winter, while common varieties were clearly thinning. Certified varieties lasted into the third season increasing their overall yield.

Farmers planning to seed clover should contact their farm supply store 10 to 14 days before you need seed. This allows store owners to be sure they have certified seed of the variety and amount desired.

Tobacco Producers Meeting

Local tobacco producers are invited to the Annual Tobacco Producers Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. at RCHS. Please register with the Extension office at 256-2403 by noon on Friday, February 22. The Young Farmers Association must have an accurate count to assure that everyone is served.

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

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TOPS

(Take off Pounds Sensibly) TOPS meets Thursday at 6 p.m. at Broadhead Christian Church basement on Main St. in Broadhead. For more info. call 1-800-932-TOPS or locally 758-4047.

Narcotics Anonymous

Tired or drugs and/or alcohol controlling your life? Come join us at Narcotics Anonymous, every Thursday at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church, located on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon. For more info. call 256-9263.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon and Alcohol Anonymous meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon. For more info. call 256-2129.

Republican Party Meets

The Republican Party meets the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Kastle Inn.

Bookmobile Schedule

Please call the library at 256-2388 for schedule.

Dave Jackson Local #731

Since we have moved to Broadhead #566 some of the members addresses have been misplace or are out dated we need to correct this problem. Please contact the secretary or better yet come to the meeting on the 4th Saturday of each month at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Smoke Detectors

Rockcastle Hospital: Home Health, with the assistance of local volunteer fire departments, is distributing smoke alarms to the citizens of Rockcastle County who are over age 60 or disabled, and do not have a smoke detector in their home. To apply call 256-1808. Necessary information: Name of applicant, address, date of birth, phone number, nature of the disability (if under 60 years of age).

Clothing Donations Needed

The Rockcastle County Migrant Program, 245 Richmond St. (across from the Board of Education) is in need of clothing of all

types. Call for a pickup (256-2157) or bring your donations by the Migrant Office any week day 8:00-3:00.

Concealed Carry Class

Concealed Carry Class will be Saturday at 8 a.m. in the Rockcastle County Courthouse. For more information please call 256-4950.

"Cutwork Sweatshirt"

Feb. 14th, 10:00 a.m. making a "Cutwork Sweatshirt" will be taught by Whitney Co. Extension Agent, Peggy Helton. It the Rockcastle Extension Office. Class is free. Call 256-2403 for a list of supplies and to register.

"Quick Meals"

Feb. 14, 12:00 (noon), a free class on Quick Meals will be taught at the Extension Office. Free samples and recipes. Call 256-2403 for info.

"Sit-N-Sew"

Need free help with a project? Come join others in a "Sit-N-Sew" day at the Extension Office on Thurs., Feb. 14th with refreshments and goodies throughout the day.

Center Hours

Rockcastle County Senior Citizens and Day Health Care Center hours are 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Closing

The Mt. Vernon Post Office will be closed Mon., Feb. 18th in observance of President's Day.

Customer Appreciation

The Mt. Vernon Post Office will host a Customer Appreciation Day on Thurs., Feb. 14th with refreshments and goodies throughout the day.

Skating Party

Youth League #901 Woodmen of the World will host a special Valentine's Skating Party on Thurs., Feb. 14th at Berea Skating Rink from 6-8 p.m.

Tobacco Meeting

Annual Tobacco Production Meeting will be held on Tues., Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Rockcastle County High School Cafeteria.

Quit Smoking Classes

The Rockcastle County Health Dept. and Rockcastle Hospital is offering FREE classes to anyone who wants to quit smoking. Classes begin today, Feb. 14th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the hospital conference room. Classes last 12 weeks. If interested, come to the hospital and follow the signs into the conference room.

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00 Gr. Vitari 4dr.	114,997	NOW 13,500	298
00 Stratus S/E - 4dr.	19,997	NOW 9,250	204
00 Ranger PU 29K	119,997	NOW 10,400	229
00 Olds Intrigue	119,997	NOW 9,990	219
00 Buick Century - 4dr.	119,997	NOW 8,990	197
00 Dodge Intrepid - Loaded	119,997	NOW 8,990	197
99 Alero - 4dr. Loaded	119,997	NOW 8,250	204
99 Ply Breeze - 4dr.	119,997	NOW 8,990	197
99 Chev Malibu - 4dr.	119,997	NOW 8,450	186
99 GMC Sonoma PU	119,997	NOW 7,490	165
99 Chev Astro Cargo	119,997	NOW 8,490	186
99 GMC Safari Cargo	119,997	NOW 10,990	241
99 Ford Cargó Van	119,997	NOW 7,490	165
99 Toyota Taurus - Loaded	119,997	NOW 8,450	186
98 Toyota Tacoma PU	119,997	NOW 8,990	197
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98 Mazda X-Cab PU	119,997	NOW 8,990	197

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Dr. Rob will be speaking in all services
February 17 (Sunday)

10:00AM—Get to know Dr. Rob

11:00AM—"How to Keep the Honey in Honey-moon"

6:00PM—"The Healing of an Offended Spirit"

February 18-22 (Monday-Friday)

7:00PM each evening

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR HOME? INVEST A LITTLE TIME THIS WEEK AND MAKE YOUR HOME BETTER FOREVER!

Don Stayton, Pastor Scott Stayton, Youth Pastor
256-5913, 256-5862, 256-3286.