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July 2010

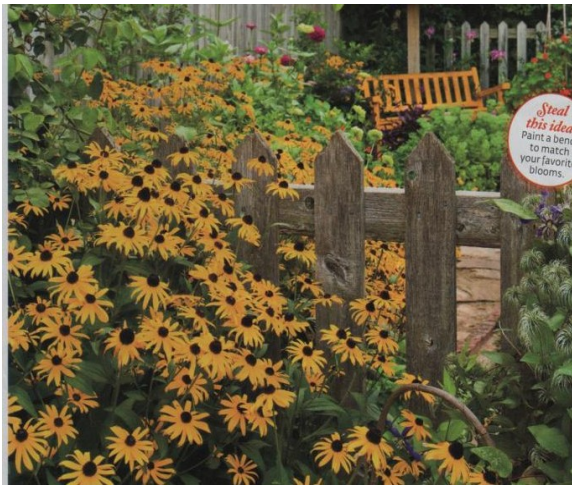


EMERALD CUT LAWN AND LANDSCAPE, INC

Emerald Cut News

July's Checklist

Fertilize	✓
Mulch all bare areas	✓
Watch for red spider mites on marigolds, junipers, & verbena; they are at their peak during the hot months	✓
Mow regularly and leave the clippings on the lawn	✓
Treat ant hills	✓
Weed beds	✓
Dead head annual flowers to promote new blooms	✓
Prune all dead or diseased wood.	✓
Hand water dry spots, annuals, and newly planted areas. Deep water during hot months	✓



In-Bloom

Black-Eyed Susans

Easy to grow and happy anywhere, they're icons of summertime

Try one of our favorites, 'Goldsturm'

Pair them with other seasonal flowers

Use them to create colorful arrangements

Enjoy the added bonus of birds and butterflies

Its bulletproof for the South. It loves clay soil, handles torrid weather beautifully and still looks good even after it finishes blooming

Plant black-eyed Susan's in big sweeps. For a meadow garden, pair them with native grasses. They're also beautiful against the deep purples of summer phlox and Mexican petunia

These are to die for as a cut flowers. They're great companions for later summer flowers. They're super with zinnias

Butterflies are attracted to black-eyed Susan's and birds love the seed heads. So you'll get the added benefit of all those colorful wings fluttering about your summer garden



Seven Fried-and-True Border Plants

Combine cheerful colors, simple textures, and plants of various heights for a great look that creates interest all season long.

- 1. Crystal Fairy rose
- 2. Melampodium
- 3. Techno Heat Light Lue lobelia
- 4. Lamb's ears
- 5. Serena Purple angelonia
- 6. Butterfly Deep Rose pentas
- 7. Shasta Daisy

From the Sperry Garden

As featured in Neil Sperry's e-garden, June 2010

Lawns all across Texas were slow to green up following this past unusual winter and early spring. St. Augustine was especially troubled, so when we returned from a week out of town to find a lawn that looked as bad as it had before, I decided it was time to give it the sphagnum peat moss treatment for **Take All Root Rot**.

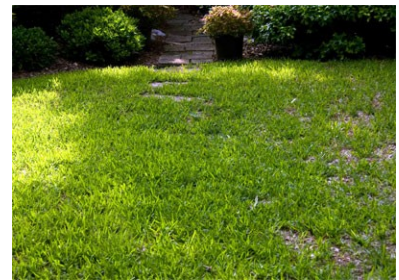
Before I applied the peat moss, I checked with experts, Dr James McAfee and Dr. Phil Colbaugh. Phil is a fine plant pathologist, formerly with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Both men confirmed that much of the damage this spring was due to TARR. Jim told me that he has heard of damage to St Augustine as far south as the northern suburbs of Houston. So, while snow and cold damage alone may have been partly responsible, TARR became chief suspect.



Before treatment

I applied 1 inch of Canadian sphagnum peat moss to the large affected area of my Raleigh St. Augustine on May 13. This photo was taken Monday, May 24— Just 11 days later! No fungicide was applied. Dr. Colbaugh has told me through the years that fungicides often don't work well on the this organism (TARR).



After treatment

This is an even more dramatic turnaround from TARR damage that I saw several years ago when I posted the photos that we've had in the MAQ section of my website. Really proves the benefit of creating that acidic interface at the soil line. This organism greatly favors alkaline conditions.

We are also seeing reports that Bermuda grass lawns are also being damaged by TARR. If these symptoms apply to your Bermuda turf. It might be worth considering.

Again, public thanks to Texas A&M and its great research programs. We gardeners are the beneficiaries this time. Many others reap similar rewards at the other times.