

What's New with Pure Prairie



Pure Prairie Organics

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Greetings Gardeners!

This is a great time of year to do some reseeding if you need some bare spots filled in. Make sure the grass seed touches soil and cover it with some potting soil or compost to keep it from drying out. Grass seed hates to dry out. Use 100% perennial rye for best results in this area. Home Depot and Ace hardware have this, but make sure you read the label. Bluegrass and fescue just do not like our hot dry summers, so I recommend not using any blends with them in there or keep it to a minimum. Perennial rye is native to Illinois and very nicely suited for our unusual weather patterns. The other grasses just don't hold up in our heat. Call me if you have any questions!!

Watch out for the dry weather coming up. Larry Acker, my weather guy, (3forecasts.com) says there is very little rain for our area between Sept 6 and Oct 2. Some rain between Oct 2 - 8 and very little rain between Oct 8 and Nov 27. The dates may be a little off but he usually nails trends. We have to make sure our trees have enough water to make their food going into winter. Definitely plan on watering this fall. I like soaker hoses. Put one under a tree and leave it on for twelve hours and then shift it to another part of the same tree or move it to another tree. Soaker hoses use two gallons PER HOUR which is very low. The back and forth sprinklers use five gallons of water PER MINUTE. This can be a little fast and cause some runoff. With the soaker hose we get real deep percolation. A soaker hose for 12 hours will only use 25 gallons of water and be invisible on the water bill. This should last the tree for about two weeks, then do it again. It's a very easy system to do as the hose is always on and we only need to move it twice a day. Other sprinklers work fine, just use it for a shorter length of time.... maybe an hour each week. The feeder roots of the trees are in the top 12 inches and that is where we need to get most of the water. I check it with a long screw driver which I stick in the soil. Wet soil is soft and dry soil is hard, so it's an easy thing to figure out. Real doable! Again, call me and I can make specific recommendations for your situation. We can prioritize the important trees and sprinklers that you may already have or adjust the settings on your irrigation timers.

Larry is also forecasting lower than normal temperatures

thru Thanksgiving. Again the lawns and trees will be fine, we just have to watch out for dryness AND DEW DOESNT COUNT!... so keep checking the soil. If we do a good job now then the trees will leaf out in spring with plenty of root reserves and the new growth will be much stronger and healthier and earlier than the dry trees. Everything we do now will show up in the springtime.

The brown leaves that are falling now are from dry stress and not related to autumn. Some trees are full of brown seeds (linden and ash) and it looks like they are really sick but actually it's ok. With all the rain we had in spring, many trees got all excited and made a lot of seeds and now they are turning brown. They should fall off soon. Keep watering the trees and getting them ready for next year.

I have some great liquid food for trees and I am seeing very nice results from them. If any of your trees are struggling or you want to feed the ones you already have, definitely give me a call. I do both root feeding and foliar (thru the leaves) feeding.

This winter I will be doing some light pruning work. If you have some small trees and shrubs that have become too thick, overgrown, have dead wood or crossing branches, I would love to work on them! Just give me a call and we will set something up.

Two forecasters are calling for an early snow with milder temps and more snow than the last two winters. That's good news for our perennials.

If you would like weekly e-mail messages just sign up on my web site and you can receive my garden tips as we go thru the season. We talk about lots of things and have lots of fun.

That's it for now. As always, call me if you have a question and we can discuss your situation in detail. This is all part of the service and the part I enjoy most!

Gentleman (ladies!) start your hoses!

Bill Scheffler