



WINDSOR, CT
860.688.7130
www.fourseasonsland.com

Mission Statement

Four Seasons "MAKES IT HAPPEN"
as a result of being persistent
and consistent to create and offer
services
that contribute to a more pleasant,
trouble-free way of life to benefit our
clients, staff, and our community.

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Play - and you might win!!
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**Congratulations to
our most recent
"\$100 On Us"
Drawing Winners:**

Richard Gebo
Unisource
Windsor, CT

Diana Laderoute
KBE Building Corporation
Farmington, CT

THE FOUR SEASONS TIMES F.S.L.

Early Spring 2012

Newsletter

Getting Ready For Spring!

Winter doesn't just mean snow and ice management here at Four Seasons. During the non-growing season, our team is busy handling a variety of tasks all around our complex, and as has been the case for years, we always take time to attend professional development meetings and seminars to make sure we stay on top of trends, topics, and key information for our clients. This year was no exception.

*By Bob St. Jacques,
C.S.P., C.L.P.
President
Four Seasons*

From pavers and wallstone training to plants, insects and sustainable practices, we covered and learned quite a bit this winter!

In early January, FSL team members travelled to Manchester Community College to participate in the Winter Symposium, presented by the CT Nursery and Landscape Association and the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association. Then, in early February, it was off to the Boston Convention Center to attend the annual New England Grows trade show, a super source of hot trends, timely topics, and the latest information we need in order to stay at the forefront of landscape innovations and solutions.

One of the topics discussed at the CNLA Symposium was the Boxwood Blight, a new disease for Connecticut (and the country) that will be one to watch out for. We cover it in greater detail on page 3. We also assisted the CT Nursery and Landscape Association with set up at the 31st Connecticut Flower and Garden show, held at the Connecticut Convention Center in late February.

Our current focus here at FSL is to ramp up operations for springtime - and it's many types of weather. We give you important tips and tricks to prepare your home's landscape properly in our article on page 3.

With Spring set to officially begin on March 20th, don't hesitate to give me a call with any questions, concerns or comments. Thanks for your association with Four Seasons, and we look forward to exceeding all of your commercial landscaping needs in 2012 - and beyond!

Day of Service is Friday April 20th

For a number of years now, we've used this space to tell folks about "Earth Day" and, more recently, the "Professional Landcare/PLANET Day of Service". This year Earth Day is officially on April 22nd, but the "Day of Service" is on tap for Friday, April 20th.

PLANET Day of Service is an annual event designed to unite the national lawn and landscape industry for a day that is dedicated to giving back to local

communities.

Last year, approximately 200 projects were completed in 43 states and Canada; more than 3,200 volunteers participated; and over \$900,000 in time and services was donated to local communities.

If you would like to learn more about how your organization can "give back", feel free to give us a call. Although Four Seasons is already helping that day, we've got lots of ideas for you!

FSL SPOTLIGHT: FSL Excavation and Drainage Services

When you do anything for over 30 years, some of your stronger qualities can be occasionally overlooked (Right, spouses?!). At Four Seasons, we've decided that now is a great time to remind our customers of the **many services** that we offer, in the hopes that we might **provide a solution** from the company that you know and trust - Four Seasons.

This month we're spotlighting our **drainage and excavation** services, and we're tying this article together with our **Parking Lot Repair**, a very popular service that clients ask for, especially in the spring (for more details on that service, see our "parking lot repair" insert in this newsletter).

In recent years, we've been working extensively on drainage



Four Seasons at work implementing drainage solution.

and excavation projects for both commercial, and yes, residential clients.

While our focus and emphasis will always be commercial, the strong demand for this type of work means

that, for the first time, we will be handling residential clients (for excavation and drainage projects only).

Whether it's site work, foundations, catch basins, grading, or even parking areas and paving, the answer is: yes, we do that! Call us and let's talk it over - our solutions will meet your needs, will be done on time and on budget, and will bring you peace of mind, knowing that Four Seasons brings over thirty years of experience to the job. Our experience means that we can find ways to accomplish a task that other companies can't - or won't!

Want to learn more? Call Four Seasons today at 860.688.7130. Yes, we do that!

The View from the Connecticut Flower Show: Spring's Coming!



TIPS & TRICKS: Preparing Your Landscape for Spring

By Tim Garneau, FSL

While mild weather may lure you to start your gardening, early season preparation and planning will lead to much greater returns later in the season. We have prepared a series of tips to ensure your garden/lawn is in top shape throughout the season:

Get a Soil PH Test. Go to www.fourseasonsland.com and download the soil submission form, or call 860.683.4977 (Exp Station phone number).

Prune out dead or damaged branches. This is especially important after the October storm. Suspended or hanging branches and limbs should be addressed now before the leaves grow. This makes clean-up efforts much easier as well as making the problem areas easier to spot. These branches are extremely hazardous and if left alone will eventually fall. Trees and branches that have already fallen should be cleaned up now before the ground gets too soft and wet to get machinery in and out of your yard. Spring flowering trees should be pruned after the flowers have passed, except if the limbs pose a safety hazard.

Prep the Beds. Remove old mulch or incorporate into the soil if well composted. Mulch depth should only be about 3 inches, so add only what is needed. Putting down a pre-emergent such as Preen will prevent weed seeds from germinating. Clean up old and rotting leaves from perennials and cut back ornamental grasses if you haven't done so. Fertilizing shrubs should ideally be done in Fall, but can be done in Spring, just make sure the fertilizer is applied before any new growth starts.

Spring Lawn Maintenance. Give your lawn a good raking to remove winter debris and any dead grass. Have a soil test done to check your pH level. This is important in new and established lawns. Early Spring is the ideal time to lime your soil. Adding lime gives your lawn the calcium and magnesium it needs and more importantly allows the roots system to absorb the nutrients in the soil. Be sure to wait 2-3 weeks after applying lime to apply your fertilizer. Patch any dead areas of your lawn with a quality topsoil and seed, making sure the seed stays moist to germinate. Sharpen or change your mower blades to ensure grass blades are cut cleanly, this prevents disease and promotes better growth.

Irrigation. When activating your irrigation system for Spring, make sure that the water is turned on slowly, this will prevent 'water hammering' which can damage your home's plumbing. Spend a few minutes checking for leaks and heads that are broken or out of adjustment. If you have

a rain sensor, give it a test to make sure that it's functioning properly. Make sure the valves (zones) turn on and off properly. Also check the clock for the correct date and time as well as the correct run times and start times. Don't forget to change the back-up battery inside the clock if so equipped.

Fertilizing. Apply a light fertilization to replenish the nutrients from Fall and gear up for the rapid growth the warm weather will bring. Now is the time to be thinking about weeds. Crab grass and other weed seeds are beginning to germinate. Apply a pre-emergent sometime after the forsythias bloom (March to April) to kill off any weed seeds. If over seeding, do not apply pre-emergent until after the new grass has germinated.

Late Spring:

Apply mulch and more mulch. If you mulch now, you'll have next to no weeding come summer.

Deadhead bulbs. Remove spent blossoms from spring-flowering bulbs; let foliage die back without removing it.

Go shopping. Pick out flats of your favorite bedding plants; remember to pick ones not yet in bloom for stronger plants.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs. Trim away spent blooms, and thin too-thick branches to rejuvenate older plants.

Warning: Boxwood Blight Has Arrived. Here's What You Can Do.

Courtesy of CT Agricultural Experiment Station - for the link to the entire document, go to our website under "News"

A plant disease that our friends in the U.K. have been fighting since the mid 1990's has arrived in the U.S., and that's bad news for gardeners, landscapers, homeowners, and anyone that might have them in their landscape, or in their landscape plans. It seems that the disease Boxwood Blight, or box blight/boxwood leaf drop, is ready to wreak havoc on American landscapes, and there are no easy solutions to eliminating it.

History

Starting in the mid 1990's, the disease was noticed in the U.K., and then in 2002, it was found in New Zealand. The blight then essentially ran rampant through Europe, and now, it's our turn. For those who took Latin, or for our greenhouse experts, *buxus sempervirens* (English boxwood)

and *B. sempervirens* (American or common boxwood) are the most highly susceptible to the disease. Regardless of the type of boxwood that you have, none have been shown to be immune.

Symptoms

The disease apparently affects the above ground portions of the plant, and not the roots. What you'll first notice are dark or light brown spots, and/or lesions on the leaves. The next step, after the spots come together, is not pretty. An unsightly, brown, straw colored appearance then overtakes the plant, and defoliation then occurs. Black lesions can also be found on the stems, and again, leaf drop occurs. While the plant does attempt to regrow, the cycle, when left untreated, can lead to plant death. Young plants and transplants are especially susceptible.

Treatment

Let's cut to the chase here: there is no sure-fire solution; there are only ways to lessen the severity of the disease. First is to start with disease free plants if possible; air circulation helps, as the disease likes wetness and humidity; movement of the plants when wet should be avoided; raking away of dead leaves is quite important; if the plant is dead, it should be removed and NOT composted.

The final method for treatment involves fungicide, but none have been found to completely eradicate the disease. The names of fungicides registered for this use in Connecticut are chlorothalonil and mancozeb; they should be used in a preventative manner, i.e., before symptoms are observed, especially when conditions are humid.

landscape construction | landscape management | snow & ice management
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WINDSOR, CT
FOUR SEASONS
LANDSCAPING INC.



HOW ABOUT A \$100 ON US?

Know the Answer?

Hint: Look Inside this Issue! Save and Win!!

1. The First Day of Spring is on _____.
2. **Weeding** in the Summer can be reduced by adding _____ and more _____ this spring?
3. Earth Day 2012 is on what day?
4. **Boxwood Blight** can be treated, but has no cure. True or False?

Fax your answers to: 860.688.3856, and we'll select one winner (at random) from the correct answers.

Winner receives a \$100 gift certificate!

FSL Facts

For over 30 Years, Four Seasons has provided **Innovative Commercial Landscape Construction Solutions** throughout Connecticut and W. Mass.
A Sampling of our Solutions Include:

**Landscape Construction
Landscape Management
Snow & Ice Management
Bark Blowing
Hydroseeding
Erosion Control
Tree Spade Service
Drainage & Excavation Services
Speciality Construction Services**

Call us today and let us put our 30 Years of Commercial Landscape Experience to work - for you!