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September - Monthly Newsletter

Green Goods Wholesale Nursery

Go Green, Feel Good!



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Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management, or **IPM** was first created in response to the extreme use of pesticides after World War II. It is a long-term, eco-friendly approach to pest control that focuses on prevention rather than treatment. By using methods like biological control, habitat manipulation, and resistant plant varieties, IPM helps to maintain a healthy, balanced ecosystem. It's most effective when used proactively, but if you're already facing an out-of-control pest problem, it may be time to reassess your approach.



Eastern Giant Swallowtail Caterpillar on Citrus

Bradford Pear & Elaeagnus

Over *20 years ago*, shrubs like Elaeagnus were widely approved as screening plants in communities like Spring and Brays Island. At the time, rapid growth and dense foliage made them attractive options for landscapes. However, this species has become highly invasive due to its ability to produce large quantities of berries, which spread and outcompete native plants.

Similarly, the Bradford Pear tree, often used for its ornamental value, is now considered problematic. Although Bradford Pear trees cannot pollinate themselves, they are often grafted onto Callery Pear rootstocks, which can develop into thorny trees capable of producing seeds. These seeds are spread by animals, leading to the establishment of invasive populations that block sunlight and nutrients, harming native tree species. Initially expected to grow to a maximum height of 25 feet, Bradford Pears quickly ended up reaching heights of *50-60 feet*, developing poor structure, and breaking easily in strong winds. The brittle wood and rapid growth make them not only invasive, but also dangerous in landscapes.

In response to the growing threat, Clemson University has launched a bounty program where: if you cut down a Bradford Pear and share a photo of the fallen tree, they will reward you with a *free native tree*- such as Black Gum, Bald Cypress, or Sweetbay Magnolia.



Bradford Pear in bloom – Hardeeville

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Let's talk Lichen

Lichens are a complex symbiotic relationship between fungus and algae, thriving on undisturbed surfaces such as tree trunks, rocks, even man-made structures. With over 3,600 species in North America, and covering over 6% of the Earth's surface, lichens are important components of ecosystems, playing a role in air quality and providing habitat for various organisms.

Oftentimes, lichen is the first living organism to appear after a natural disaster, surviving where other organisms cannot. They are often blamed for the sickness and death in trees, when that is not the case.

This is because Lichen is self-sustaining. They do not take nutrients from other plants, but instead absorb energy from the atmosphere through rain, fog, and dust. This makes them a quality indicator of air pollution, only thriving when air quality is cleanest.

So, despite their presence on plants, lichens are non-parasitic and will not harm the plants they grow on. There is no need to remove it from a tree unless necessary. Removing can do more harm than good, scratching the bark and proving an entryway for diseases and pests.



Lichen on the trunk of a Southern Magnolia

Did you know?

Lichen provides food and shelter for various species of insects, spiders, birds, and small mammals. Birds will often use lichen in their nests, benefitting from its antibacterial properties.



Lichen on a Camellia outside our office

Misunderstood Guests

While Lichen is sometimes found on trees in decline, they are not the cause of poor health. Instead, their presence can point to underlying environmental conditions like limited sunlight, poor air circulation, or poor plant health.

Interestingly, lichen is highly sensitive to air pollution, making them a valuable indicator of air quality and overall environmental health. Next time you spot lichens on a tree, take it as a sign to check on your growing conditions, and that your air quality may be cleaner than you think!



Japanese Beetles

Japanese Beetles are a commonly known summer pest, notorious for their persistent feeding on over 300 plant species. These metallic green and copper beetles may be eye catching, but their impact is anything but beautiful. Most of their lifecycle is spent underground as larvae, feeding on grass roots causing unsightly brown patches in lawns.

Unfortunately, there is no sure way to completely eradicate Japanese Beetles. However, through **Integrated Pest Management**, you can reduce their impact while also minimizing harm to the environment. Strategies to consider include:

Biological Controls: Certain plants like Geraniums can serve as a clever defense, temporarily paralyzing beetles when ingested, making them easy prey for birds and other predators.

Chemical Controls: Products like Neem Oil or Insecticidal Soaps are less harmful to beneficial insects than other conventional insecticides.

Avoid Traps: While Japanese Beetle traps are widely sold, they often do more harm than good, attracting more beetles than they catch.



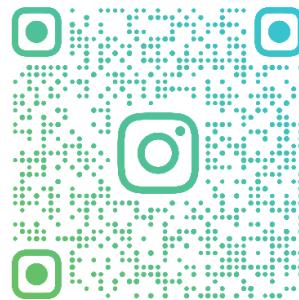
Photo from Edwin Remsberg – VW Pics

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Our Socials:

Did you know that you can find us on Facebook and Instagram?

It's a fun way to connect with us, get landscaping ideas, and see some special-order material you may not have known about!



GREENGOODSNURSERY

Q: Are you tired of your garden becoming a buffet for deer?



While no plant is *truly* deer proof, there are plenty of beautiful options that deer tend to avoid. A good rule of thumb is that: Deer **do not** like *strong scents*. Make choices that carry strong aromas like Society Garlic, Rosemary, or Lavender. If you're looking for a reliable shrub- Distylium is a great choice, more specifically the 'Cinnamon Girl' variety- which has proven to be especially hardy. Keep in mind, that although some plants **are** considered deer resistant, blooms are *always* tempting and will still attract hungry visitors. Consider strategic placement or protective measures around your most vulnerable plants.

Sources:

- All photos taken on site unless otherwise stated.
- Mesa, Natalia. "Don't Underestimate the Japanese Beetle." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 20 Aug. 2023
- Kraus, Alan. "Is Lichen on Trees Harmful?" *Independent Tree*, 29 June 2023, www.independenttree.com/is-lichen-on-trees-harmful

- Starker. "Pest Management." *Burkholder Plant Health Care*, 7 Apr. 2025, www.burkholderphc.com/plant-health-care/pest-management/.
- Bradford Pear Bounty, www.clemson.edu/extension/bradford-pear/



Got a Question?

If you have a question you'd like answered, feel free to send an email to: sydni@greengoodsnursery.com for a chance to have it featured in our next newsletter!

Contact us at **843-784-5600**

www.greengoodsnursery.com

 **Green Goods**
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Fatsia Japonica



What's in bloom?

Our top picks this month:

Hydrangea, Crape Myrtle, Liriope, Buddleia, and Lantana. Whether you're trying to attract pollinators or brighten up your space, these plants can bring color, texture, and beauty to your space.

September Tips and Tricks

As we begin the transition into fall, there are some important gardening tips to keep in mind:

-Encourage Self-Seeding: Stop deadheading your annuals now to encourage self-seeding for next season.

-Dividing Perennials: With more consistent rainfall in September, it's a great time to divide and transplant perennials. Be sure to mark areas where you plan to plant spring-blooming bulbs, as planting in the fall allows roots to establish for earlier blooms in the spring.

-Root Health: Planting in the fall promotes healthy root development, leading to stronger plants and vibrant blooms in the upcoming season.