This column is provided as a community service by The Landings Association’s Development Committee. Please email your questions and comments to lawnlandscape@landings.org.

LAWN AND LANDSCAPE PRIORITIES FOR JANUARY

• To meet the Association’s maintenance guidelines, mow and string trim at least monthly and edge beds at least bi-monthly through February.

• If you have not done so already, winterize your irrigation system to protect against the risk of freeze.

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY

• Trees and shrubs may be planted or transplanted.

• If a freeze is forecast, water root balls of trees and shrubs well and cover plants with vulnerable foliage.

• Send a soil sample to Chatham County’s extension service for analysis, in preparation for spring planting and fertilization.

• Apply horticultural oil while plants are dormant to control pests.

• What should I use to cover my plants to protect them from freezing?

• Why do I need my soil tested? Do I need to do it every year?

• How do I go about preparing samples to be tested? Where do I take them? What kind of results will I receive?

Q: Why do you provide advice for January in the December Journal?
A: Some advice requires advance planning to be able to implement in a timely way, so we always are looking one month ahead.

Q: How do I take care of Poinsettias in my home?
A: Poinsettias can last a very long time if you select them carefully and follow a few, easy tips to ensure they get the right amount of sunlight and water, have space to breath, and are protected from drafts and cold temperatures. Poinsettias also can have more than one blooming season. Paul Ecke Ranch (which has been researching, breeding, and selling “the world’s finest Poinsettias” for more than 75 years) offers excellent advice on how to select and care for poinsettias in your home and what you need to do to promote reblooming. See www.ecke.com/new1/corp_story/corp_pntcare.asp.

Q: Recently, I had my driveway power washed, but some stains are still there. What can I do?
A: We referred your question to Jon Kotowski of Super Clean Power Wash, who said, “We can remove virtually all stains (dirt, mold, mildew, rust, oil stains), but battery acid stains from golf carts are very difficult, if not impossible to remove. They are especially visible on light-colored driveways. To avoid staining, we recommend that residents do not wash their golf carts on their driveways.”
SUCCESSFUL GARDENING TIPS

- February is the best month for planting and transplanting trees and shrubs.
- When a freeze is forecast, soak root balls of plants that do not tolerate freezing temperatures.
- Plant new roses in a well-drained, sunny location. Prune established roses (except climbers) to remove damaged canes and improve form.
- Prune deciduous trees to remove deadwood, undesired shoots, and crossing branches. Crape myrtle should be pruned only after the risk of frost has passed. (In Savannah, this is widely recognized as being after St. Patrick’s Day.)
- Prune evergreen shrubs. (Camellia sasanqua should be pruned only after it has finished flowering.)
- Divide and replant perennials, deciduous perennials.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and damaged canes and improve form. Roses (except climbers) to remove
- Divide and replant perennials, ferns, and ground covers.
- Prune deciduous trees to remove deadwood, undesired shoots, and crossing branches. Crape myrtle should be pruned only after the risk of frost has passed. (In Savannah, this is widely recognized as being after St. Patrick’s Day.)
- Prune evergreen shrubs. (Camellia sasanqua should be pruned only after it has finished flowering.)

TIMELY TOPICS

Q. What timely topics for February did this column address last year? Where can I find them?
A. You can find answers to last year’s timely topic questions in the Association’s online library (www.landings.org), then click on Administration/Library > Library > Landings Journal. Those questions were:
(1) What is the best way to plant a tree?
(2) Can you give me some tips on how and when to prune ornamental grasses?
(3) What should I do to tidy up my perennials?

Q. Parts of my landscape need renewal, and I want to get started. Do I need to get Association approval for my new plan?
A. The Landings Association’s Architectural Guidelines provide the information you need. (These guidelines are available online at www.landings.org, then click on Forms/Permits > Architectural Forms, and select the Architectural Guidelines Book.) Here are the most important excerpts that relate to your question:

III. Architectural Criteria - Specifics, M. Landscaping: “Landscaping must blend and harmonize with the surrounding environment, while complementing the natural setting of the island. A landscape plan is required for all construction and must be submitted for approval. If more than twenty-five percent of the total lot’s landscaping is being altered or added, prior approval by TLA is required.”

IV. Architectural Review Process, B. Alterations and Modifications. An application for altering the landscape or exterior appearance of a structure consists of: (1) a completed “Architectural Review Application” with samples of building materials and colors to be used, (2) a drawing of the work to be done that clearly show all aspects of what is being requested, and (3) a change to the shape or size of a path or driveway requires a site plan with the modification clearly identified. Plans for properties and structures may be on file at the Association. If so, copies can be obtained to assist with completion of the drawing(s). …Alterations and Modifications do not require a fee, but do require review and approval. In most instances, review can be done by TLA staff and an approval notice will be generated within 24 to 48 hours.”

Appendix D, Landscape Guidelines for The Landings on Skidaway Island. This appendix provides detailed information on landscaping design objectives (and taboos), review processes, and desirable and/or significant trees.

Q. Speaking of desirable and/or significant trees, my landscape renewal involves removing trees. I know I have to call Association Environmental Coordinator Sean Burgess’s office for approval, but I’m not sure how it works.
A. We asked Sean and he was happy to clarify that, “With the tree approval policy, Landings Association staff will approve trees that fall into certain categories based on species, tree health, posing a threat to person or property, and overcrowding of the canopy. I would say that 95% of the time residents will only request one to three trees for removal. If the trees do not meet the criteria, they are not approved. At that time, the resident will call and state the reason why they want the tree removed. If it is due to landscape modifications, then they are referred to Matt Amman (Landings Association Community Development Manager). Another case we will see once in a while is a resident will call in multiple trees (8+), and this request will be looked at by our staff and then referred to Matt because it will modify more than 25% of the existing landscape.”

Q. What do I do if I’m not sure my landscape renewal affects 25% of my total lot?
A. Consulting Landscape Architect Valerie Hinesley suggests, “Some landscape designers do go ahead and submit a plan for all projects no matter the size to be sure that the landscape meets TLA requirements. If a homeowner is not certain, it does not hurt to have us review their plans because we may pick up on any potential landscape problems such as plants that will grow too large for the area or non-deer resistant plant materials that have been used by their designer.”
Lawn and Landscape Priorities for March

- March is the start of the active season for lawn maintenance. To meet the Association’s minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly and edge beds at least monthly from March through October.
- Apply pre-emergent weed control in March through October.
- Make plans to replenish pine straw and finely shredded wood mulch to 3” in all beds once the live oak leaves have dropped (April/May). Wood bark mulch should be turned and top-dressed to maintain a 3” depth then.
- Prune crape myrtle trees after the risk of freezing temperatures has passed (mid-March). Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs after blooming.
- Fertilize established trees (including citrus trees), shrubs, ground covers, and vines.

TIMELY TOPICS

Q. What topical tips for March did this column address last year? Where can I find them?

A. You can find answers to last year’s topical tips questions in the Association’s online library (www.landings.org, then click on Administration/Library > Library > Landings Journal). Those questions were:

1. I’ve heard people talk about “Crape Murder.” What is it? (2) When is the best time to prune my Crape Myrtle tree? (3) What is the best way to prune my Crape Myrtle tree? (4) I know my Crape Myrtle tree is dead. What do I do now? (2) When is the best time to prune my Crape Myrtle tree?

Q. What annuals and perennial plants can I plant now to add spring color to my landscape?

A. March-May is the season for planting flowering annuals such as Begonia*, Cockscomb, Geranium, Hibiscus, Impatiens, Pentas, and Petunia, and annuals with colorful foliage such as Coleus and Strobilanthes. It is also the right time to plant flowering perennials such as Agapanthus, Butterfly Bush, Cannas, Dianthus, Echinacea Coneflower, Gaura, Ginger*, Lenten Rose*, Lantana*, Ornamental Grasses*, Mexican Petunia*, Plumbago*, Rudbeckia/Black-Eyed Susan*, and Salvia*. Caladium plants provide colorful foliage for yards with full or partial shade. Items with asterisks are deer-resistant, but not deer-proof!

Q. What timely topics for March did this column address last year? Where can I find them?

A. You can find answers to last year’s topical tips questions in the Association’s online library (www.landings.org, then click on Administration/Library > Library > Landings Journal). Those questions were:

1. I’ve heard people talk about “Crape Murder.” What is it? (2) When is the best time to prune my Crape Myrtle tree? (3) What is the best way to prune my Crape Myrtle tree? (4) I know my Crape Myrtle tree is dead. What do I do now? (2) When is the best time to prune my Crape Myrtle tree?

Community Development • Development Resources

An Evening with The Landings’ Own NBA All-Star Jack McCloskey

By Brenda Marchand

The One Hundred

As part of “The NBA - Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow,” “Trader Jack” will speak candidly about his career and his personal take on the NBA. Jack had an extensive sports career as a player, coach, and an executive with the NBA. He also was the General Manager of the Detroit Pistons and made more than 30 trades, constantly upgrading his team to become a true challenger to the Boston Celtics, one of the dominant teams in the NBA’s Eastern Conference.

Please join us for this exclusive engagement benefitting the Children’s Hospital at Memorial Medical Center, and presented by The One Hundred. This special event will be on February 25 at the Plantation Club. Dinner will be served, and a personal question-and-answer session will immediately follow dinner.

For more information, please contact Brenda Marchand (598-8499) or Nancy Sheets (598-0954). Tickets are $45 per person, with a member cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.
Lawn and Landscape Priorities for April

- Mow and string trim at least bi-weekly, and edge beds at least monthly.
- Install a rain or humidity gauge on your irrigation system to avoid wasting water by watering unnecessarily.
- Top-dress or replenish pine straw mulch to 3” in all beds (after live oak leaves have dropped) to conserve moisture and for weed control.
- Turn or replenish wood mulch to maintain 3” level in all beds.
- When mulching around trees, leave a 4-6” unmulched ring around the trunk to limit disease and growth of above-ground roots.
- Fertilize citrus trees and established shrubs with a balanced fertilizer, such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10, or as prescribed by your soil analysis.
- Water new plants. Keep soil moist (not soggy) until new plantings are established.
- Water established plants, unless rainfall is adequate to provide 1” per week.

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING TIPS

- Continue planting spring annuals and perennials.
- Continue pruning flowering shrubs after they finish blooming.
- Top-dress or replenish pine straw mulch to 3” in all beds (after live oak leaves have dropped) to conserve moisture and for weed control.
- Turn or replenish wood mulch to maintain 3” level in all beds.

CONSERVATION – Utilizing Our Resources Wisely

Water Conservation Information and Resources for Residents at The Landings
Courtesy of Skidaway Audubon

Ask questions about water use at skidawayaudubon@gmail.com. We will relay them to an expert for a response. This month’s questions were answered by Ray Harrington, Regional Manager, Utilities Incorporated of Georgia.

Q. The full year Water Consumption table that appeared in the February issue of The Landings Journal showed the Total Gallons Pumped for the entire year. How did we do vis a vis the new permit which allows us to pull 1,695,000 gallons per/day from the Floridan aquifer?

A. Actually, we were below 2004 withdrawal levels in January, February, March, November, and December. We exceeded 2004 permit parameters from April to October 2010 and ended up 25,000 gallons a day over the 2004 permit limits for the 2010 calendar year.

Q. What kind of insights and conclusions can you draw from these numbers?

A. From January through March, residents did not irrigate their lawns as much. Water pumpage increased in the early spring, as most residents probably set their irrigation systems up to irrigate lawns on a set schedule and never adjusted irrigation times regardless of weather conditions, even though the average rainfall between April and October was four inches per month. Our highest amount of water pumped was in July. Even though we had 7.59 inches of rain that month, we still pumped an average of 2.282 million gallons of water per day.

Q. Is it important to meet new permit levels? Why?

A. It is very important to make every effort to meet our permit limit of 1,695,000 gallons per/day because at this point GA EPD has not indicated what types of penalties will be enforced for violation of the permit. I thought we would have done well in our conservation efforts last year as we had more than sufficient rain per month. However, we still used 1,720,000 gallons of water per day, which indicates to me residents are not responding to conservation ideas and recommendations.

Q. Looking at July, when rainfall was 7.59 inches, the highest of any month of the year, why do you suppose we pumped the most gallons of any month of the year?

A. I would say you answered your own question as I believe that, once residents set their irrigation times, the systems were never re-adjusted.

Q. What percent of the water use on the island is attributed to irrigation systems?

A. We pumped 624,447,000 gallons in 2010, or 52,037,250 gallons per month, and we estimate that an average of about 55% was used for irrigation purposes based on the number of gallons we treated (23,478,167 gallons/month) at our waste treatment facility.

Q. If we are over our permit levels by 25,000 gallons per day, what would we need to do each day to conserve that amount?

A. Each day, 21 residents would need to turn off their irrigation systems.
**Lawn and Landscape Priorities for May**

- To meet The Landings Association’s minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly, and edge beds at least monthly, through October.
- If you have not already done so in April, replenish mulch in all beds to a 3” depth.
- Hand-weed all beds bi-weekly.
- If you have not already done so, install a rain or humidity gauge on your irrigation system to ensure you do not waste water by watering unnecessarily.
- Check sprinkler heads monthly and perform 5-minute zone checks to ensure proper function.
- Water between the hours of 4 and 10 a.m. as may be needed to supplement rainfall to provide 1” of watering each week.

**SUCCESSFUL GARDENING TIPS**

- Continue planting spring annuals and perennials.
- Plant heat-loving herbs, such as basil, dill, Mexican tarragon, mint, oregano, and rosemary. *(Note: These herbs are deer resistant, because of their strong aromas and flavors.)*
- Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms.
- Fertilize established trees and shrubs.
- Be alert for signs of insects as the weather warms. Careful use of insecticide spray or dust will control most bugs.

**Why Can’t We Meet Water Permit Levels? Questions & Answers**

Do we lack information or choose to ignore it?
Fifty-five percent of potable water use on Skidaway is estimated to be from residential irrigation. We are exceeding our state-mandated permit levels by drawing more water than is allowed. Many people are over-watering — like the man who complained about his water bill but, as it turned out, who was watering his new turf three times a day — as well as running irrigation systems on days which are restricted under mandate of the Georgia DNR.

The average irrigation system uses around 20 gpm (gallons per minute.) If you have seven zones and they each run for 15 minutes, you will use 2,100 gallons of water each time your system runs.

Established turf needs no more than one inch of water per week, including rain. This allows roots to develop deeper into the soil and keeps turf from becoming diseased.

Calculate how much time it takes your irrigation system to deliver an inch. Put a tuna can in the spray area and time how long it takes to fill. You may prefer to water twice a week, at 1/2 inch per time, to prevent run off.

Better yet, use more native plants that, once established, require little or no additional irrigation.

Install a rain gauge and vary water delivery times according to plant needs…flower and shrub beds need less than turf. Consider drip lines for plant beds. Water early in the morning to avoid evaporation.

Information is widely available on how to conserve water. But what if we chose to ignore it (and the law) with an unspoken attitude that says, “If I can afford to water, why can’t I?”

Tell us how you would answer that question? Email us at skidawayaudubon@gmail.com.
Material that binds the aggregate into action causing it to harden into the stone which has been heated to very high temperatures. When combined with water, it undergoes a chemical reaction causing it to harden into a solid mass. Concrete does not "dry" during the setting process; in fact the best concrete is cured by not allowing the water to escape by evaporation. Fly ash is added to the mix in place of burning coal at power plants and provides some beneficial qualities to the concrete.

The curing process continues for a long time. Most strength tests are taken at 28 days, but the material continues to gain strength at a declining rate for months, even years, after that.

Successful Gardening Tips

- Begin planting summer bedding plants. June/July is the season for planting flowering annuals such as African daisy*, Mandevilla vine, Marigold, Ornamental peppers, Vinca, and Zinnia. It also is the right time to plant flowering perennials such as Bear’s breech*, Coreopsis*, Shasta daisy, and Tibouchina shrub*. Items with asterisks are deer-resistant, but not deer-proof!
- Continue to prune other shrubs as they finish blooming. Plants that can be pruned in summer include Clematis, Pyracantha, Redbud, Viburnum, Winter Daphne, and Wisteria.
- Finish pruning and consider propagating azaleas. (For guidance on propagation, see page 8 of the March 2010 Landings Journal. For more detailed guidance on propagating azaleas, we strongly recommend the Azalea Society of America’s advice [www.azaleas.org/index.pl/azpropagate.html]).

- Level 1 Drought Restrictions provide:
  - No watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
  - No watering allowed on Fridays. Odd-numbered addresses may water only on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
  - Even-numbered addresses may water only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Lawn and Landscape Priorities for June

- To meet The Landings Association’s minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly, and edge beds at least monthly, through October.
- Abide by water use restrictions, regardless of water source.
- When Level 1 Drought Restrictions are in effect, water only when rain is insufficient to provide 1”/week.

Telling a concrete contractor that all concrete mixes are the same is like telling a gourmet chef that his meals are just like everyone else’s. The meat and potatoes of concrete are Portland Cement and aggregates (stone and sand), along with water. There are many recipes telling how to combine these for different purposes. And then there are the spices, or additives, that add the subtleties. Additives make the concrete stronger, set faster, or slower, resist freeze/thaw stresses, become more water resistant, and vary other qualities.

Portland Cement is the ingredient that makes a mixture of sand, stone, and water turn into a structural element. It is made from special limestone which has been heated to very high temperatures. When combined with water, it undergoes a chemical reaction causing it to harden into the material that binds the aggregate into a solid mass. Concrete does not “dry” at all! Once the concrete begins to harden, the water in the mix escapes by evaporation. The concrete continues to gain strength at a declining rate for months, even years, after that.

Much of the concrete for our bridge is provided by Standard Concrete Products in the form of precast piling and pre-stressed beams. The remainder of the concrete for the footings, columns, and deck will be provided by LaFarge from a temporary batch plant located at the Truman Parkway site on Waters Avenue, shown in the accompanying picture. Although it looks a little rough, this is a computer-controlled plant with accurate scales to assure the correct proportions of ingredients. Adjustments in the amount of water added are made to allow for varying moisture content of the aggregates. This plant will discharge the appropriate weights of fine aggregate (sand), coarse aggregate (stone), cement, fly ash, additives, and water into concrete trucks with rotating barrels containing fins that thoroughly mix the ingredients. The concrete is discharged from the truck by reversing the direction of rotation of the drum to cause the mixing fins to lift the mix onto a chute. From there, it will be transported to its final destination in a concrete bucket suspended from a crane, or by a concrete pump which pushes the mix through pipes.

The above is “Concrete for Kindergarten”. Those of you who are interested can attend several courses on the subject at Georgia Tech, or join more than 50,000 individuals who attend the World of Concrete convention each year in Las Vegas. Just don’t say that all concrete mixes are the same.

Pile driving will continue during the month, and concrete will be placed in the columns of the piers on each side of the Intracoastal. Forms will be constructed for the transverse pier caps on the top of the tall piles.

Although there are no anticipated major traffic disruptions expected, some short closures will be needed for material delivery and, possibly, maintenance on the existing roadway. The Landings Association has again met with the contractor to find ways to keep traffic interruption to a minimum.

Bridge To Skidaway

By Bill Merz

Telling a concrete contractor that all concrete mixes are the same is like telling a gourmet chef that his meals are just like everyone else’s. The meat and potatoes of concrete are Portland Cement and aggregates (stone and sand), along with water. There are many recipes telling how to combine these for different purposes. And then there are the spices, or additives, that add the subtleties. Additives make the concrete stronger, set faster, or slower, resist freeze/thaw stresses, become more water resistant, and vary other qualities.

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Although there are no anticipated major traffic disruptions expected, some short closures will be needed for material delivery and, possibly, maintenance on the existing roadway. The Landings Association has again met with the contractor to find ways to keep traffic interruption to a minimum.
Lawn and Landscape
Priorities for July
To meet The Landings Association’s minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly, and edge beds at least monthly, through October.
Abide by watering restrictions for The Landings, regardless of water source.

Successful Gardening Tips
- Continue planting summer bedding plants.
- Warm, rainy weather is a good time to plant palms.
- Prune fast-growing hedges to allow new growth time to harden before winter.
- Deadhead and cut back spindly annuals. Deadhead butterfly bush to encourage more blooms.
- Cut back herbs to keep plants bushier and prevent their going to seed (particularly basil, mint, and oregano).
- Fertilize trees (including citrus trees) and shrubs, annuals, and perennials.
- Water established plants, unless rainfall is adequate to provide 1” per week.

Timely Topics
Q. We live beside a lagoon and would like to know what our rights and responsibilities are to maintain the horticulture around it.
A. The introduction to the Association’s Lawn and Landscape Guidelines for Private Properties at The Landings (see pages 110-111 in your 2011 Landings Directory) provides context and the answer to your question. It states, “The Landings’ Rules and Regulations include certain rules to sustain a high level of community quality and general appearance that are the owners/residents’ responsibility. With respect to the use of private property, the Rules and Regulations provide that:

(a) Owners of developed lots are responsible for maintaining improved and/or developed property so that when viewed from the street, golf course, or adjacent properties it will appear neat and well kept. Although natural landscaping is authorized for residential property, it is not intended that residential property be used as a nature preserve. Weeds, dense underbrush, fallen limbs, and fallen or diseased trees and shrubs must be removed; and
(b) Owners of improved property are responsible for maintaining the rights-of-way and easements adjacent to their property, including the maintenance of roadside strips between lot lines and the street.

Property owners are not responsible for maintaining common areas between pathways and the street. They also are not responsible for maintaining common areas between their lot line and the edge of lagoons and may not maintain horticulture planted along the edges of lagoons.”

“May not maintain” means property owners may not plant anything in the common area between their lot line and the edge of lagoons, and they may not remove or trim anything that has been planted there. Questions or concerns about maintenance of these areas should be referred to the Association’s Public Works Department.
Lawn and Landscape Priorities for August

❖ To meet The Landings Association's minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly and edge beds at least monthly through October.

❖ Abide by watering restrictions for The Landings, regardless of water source.

❖ During watering season, check your irrigation system's sprinkler heads monthly, to ensure proper operation.

SUCCESSFUL GARDENING TIPS

❖ You may continue planting summer bedding plants through early August.

❖ Cut back straggly bedding plants, such as begonias, geraniums, impatiens, and salvias.

❖ Continue to fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend their bloom season.

❖ Check for aphids on crape myrtle, confederate rose, and gardenia to prevent damage and sooty mold. Control with insecticide or soap spray.

❖ Check for white dots on leaves of azaleas, hawthorne, or pyracantha, which may indicate lace bug infestation. Spray forcefully with water to control.

❖ Water established plants, unless rainfall is adequate to provide 1” per week.

TIMELY TOPICS

Q. Why do I need to be concerned about aphids? How do I get rid of them?

A. Although aphids are small insects, they breed quickly and can completely destroy your flowers, shrubs, and even trees. There are many species of aphids, and they come in a range of colors (red, brown, black, yellow, green). You can recognize aphids by their pear-shaped bodies and the protuberances (cornicles) that project from their posteriors. They use the cornicles like we use juice box straws. Cornicles pierce the plant, and then the aphids are able to feed on the plant’s juices. In the process, aphids can transmit viruses back down into the plant that make its leaves turn yellow or curl and can stunt its growth. If that were not enough, aphids also secrete a sticky substance (honeydew) that is the perfect environment for sooty black fungus to grow.

Aphids can be controlled in several ways:

❖ As a proactive measure as part of your normal fertilization regime, many gardening experts recommend using slow-release fertilizers. Aphids are attracted to new growth, which they readily find on over-fertilized plants.

❖ If you notice your plants are starting to have aphids, you can spray them with water by attaching a Bug Blaster attachment to your garden hose. A Bug Blaster is like a dentist’s waterpik. It conducts water to the affected area and allows it to be applied with pressure, so the aphids are knocked off the plant. Most will be unable to get back on your plant. (You also can use this tool to spray lace bugs or spider mites off other plants).

❖ To kill aphids, spray a soap solution (2 tsp mild dish or laundry detergent mixed with a bottle of water) or horticultural oil solution (1 part vegetable oil or horticultural oil and a couple of drops of mild detergent mixed with 3 parts of lukewarm water, sprayed on a cloudy day) on a weekly basis, or rotate the solutions for maximum impact.

❖ If a part of your plant is infested with lots of aphids, snip it off to remove the aphids before they multiply. Then apply spray, as described above.
Lawn and Landscape Priorities for September

To meet The Landings Association’s minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly and edge beds at least monthly through October. Apply post-emergent weed control as needed.

Successful Gardening Tips

- Plant chrysanthemums in containers or beds for fall color.
- Separate and transplant daylily, iris, and liriope clumps.
- If you have not already done so in the past few years, plan to have a soil sample analysis before year-end, to learn what needs to be added to amend the pH and add nutrients to your beds.
- Continue to spray shrubs with insecticidal soaps to control aphids and spider mites.
- Water established plants, unless rainfall is adequate to provide 1” per week. (Abide by watering restrictions for The Landings, regardless of water source.)

Timely Topics

Q. I have a protected space in my landscape and want to plant fall vegetables. Where can I look for advice on what grows well here and when to plant it?

A. September is the time to plant beets, cabbage, carrots, collards, lettuces, onions, radishes, spinach, and turnips. (Seeds can be started earlier in sets and transplanted as September’s cooler temperatures arrive.) A wealth of useful gardening information is available for free on Skidaway Farm’s website (www.skidawayfarms.net). Even more information is available to people who become members of the Farm. As a member, you will have secure access to information that is posted on the website and also receive the Farm’s periodic newsletter. To learn more about how to become a member or Friend of Skidaway Farms, email Vice Chair Janet Waldie (membership@skidawayfarms.net).
Lawn and Landscape Priorities for October

To meet The Landings Association's minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least bi-weekly and edge beds at least monthly through October.

Continue to apply post-emergent weed control as needed.

Remove seedpods and dead fronds from palm trees.

Successful Gardening Tips

Begin planting or transplanting trees and shrubs to ensure they are well established by spring.

From mid-October, begin planting fall bedding plants.

Prune out any dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs.

Keep new plants well watered, and water established plants, unless rainfall is adequate to provide 1” per week. (Abide by watering restrictions for The Landings, regardless of water source.)

Timely Topics

Q. What bedding plants can I use to add color to my fall landscape?

A. Mid-October through November is a good time to plant ornamental cabbages and kales, snapdragons, and pansies (viola). Other annual plants that will put on a color show through the fall and winter months into early spring are petunias, marigolds, cosmos, calendula, stocks, and dianthus, which are readily available at your favorite nursery in 4", 6", and 10" pots. Fall also is a good time to plant perennial ornamental grasses, to add interest and texture to your landscape.

For best results, mix a 2” layer of organic material into the soil before planting, and use a water-soluble fertilizer immediately after planting and then again in two weeks.

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Lawn and Landscape Priorities for November

November is the start of the dormant season for lawn maintenance on our island. To meet The Landings Association’s minimum guidelines, mow and string trim at least monthly and edge beds at least bi-monthly from November through February.

- Apply post-emergent weed control in all beds.
- Top dress pine straw and finely shredded wood mulch in all beds.
- Remove seedpods and dead fronds from palm trees (at least every third year).

Successful Gardening Tips for November

- November is a good time to continue planting or transplanting trees and shrubs to ensure they are well established for spring’s growth season and to plant annuals such as ornamental cabbages, snapdragons, pansies, and winterbore kale, and perennial ornamental grasses for seasonal color.
- Keep new plants well watered, and water established plants as needed to achieve 1”/week.
- Clip dead stalks of annuals and perennials close to the ground.

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Lawn and Landscape Priorities for December

- To meet The Landings Association's maintenance guidelines, mow and string trim at least monthly and edge beds at least bi-monthly through February.
- Winterize your irrigation system to protect against the risk of freeze.

Successful Gardening Tips for December

- Trees and shrubs may be planted or transplanted.
- If a freeze is forecast, water root balls of ornamental trees and shrubs well, taking care not to water the foliage. Watering provides protection to roots, because heat is released into the surrounding soil if the water freezes. Cover plants that have vulnerable foliage, using a thermal blanket or other breathable fabric.

Winter Annual Flower Change Out

As part of the negotiated Landscape Contract with ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance, The Landings Association requests four flower change-outs per year at all entrances. These flowers enhance the aesthetics of our entrances for residents, prospective buyers, and guests. Planting cycles normally are conducted in March, June, August, and November of each year. Our fall/winter planting will be installed the second week of November. At this time, all of our summer plantings will be replaced with violas, kale, poppies, dusty miller, acorus grass, and mustard varieties.

Managing annual plants in areas with a deer population is a struggle for both The Landings Association and our residents. To minimize deer damage, violas will be used in areas where high densities of deer are present. Products such as Liquid Fence will be sprayed on the plantings weekly to contribute to their success. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Public Works Department (598-2524, ext. 400).

Center Islands Update

By Kathy Siler

The record-breaking temperatures of the last two summers and the continuing drought on Skidaway Island have taken their toll on trees and shrubs on the center and secondary islands. When trees are stressed from very high temperatures and lack of water, they are much more susceptible to disease and insect infestations. As a result, 28 trees have recently been removed from center islands in Oakridge and Plantation. That number is far greater than what is normally removed in a year on the center islands.

The Center Island Committee, which includes Sean Burgess from The Landings Association's Public Works Department, Chris Johns of ValleyCrest, and two residents currently is reviewing the soil conditions on the islands where trees have been removed. The soil mix on several of those islands primarily is sand, so there is no water retention at all. Some of the plants under consideration for those areas where the soil is very poor and has no ability to hold rainwater are palm trees and other plants that require little water, such as crepe myrtles, yucca, agave, and ornamental grasses. We hope these might survive better on some of the islands where the soil is poor and other plants have been unsuccessful. None of the center islands or secondary islands are irrigated except in gate areas, so the committee is reevaluating what can be planted that will perform better, provide some green foliage, and last longer than a year or two.

Test plantings will be done late in November. Replacement trees where they are needed also will be planted in November or December and will be watered by ValleyCrest for one year after installation. All trees will not be replaced, only where plantings are needed.

Since center island restoration began in 2003, conditions have changed and much has been learned. But the learning process is never over, and nature reminds us frequently of how little control we have over our environment!