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0395 S.R. 235 – 2½ miles North of Ada  
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Visit our **NEW** website at:  
[www.newleafgardencenter.com](http://www.newleafgardencenter.com)

KENTON STORE  
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## Some Do and Don'ts of Mulching

As a gardener, you've probably spread mulch in your gardens or around trees. Mulch gives your landscape a fresh and finished look, but there are additional benefits that it can provide – if done properly!

Here are some dos and don'ts for mulching.

**DO mulch to prevent weeds.** Weeds love bare soil. A layer of mulch will block sunlight and suppress weed growth, saving you hours of time pulling unsightly weeds.

**DO mulch to preserve moisture.** We can't always rely on regular rainfall in the hot summer months. Mulch reduces moisture loss by preventing sunlight from reaching and heating the soil while decreasing evaporation by wind. Mulch also protects soil from being eroded and reduces water runoff by providing a "sponge" surface that absorbs water and slows it down. That means less watering is needed.

**DO mulch to control soil temperature.** Mulched soils are warmer in winter and cooler in summer than bare soil. Your plant roots will love these conditions.

**DO mulch around trees and shrubs.** It eliminates competition from other plants for water and nutrients. Grass roots are the greatest threat. Mulching also helps eliminate the risk of bark damage from mowing or weed trimming too close to the trunk.

**DO consider using a natural mulch.** A natural mulch is biodegradable as opposed to a non-natural mulch that does not readily break down, such as rubber, stone or plastic. (Decorative stone can be used in landscape beds, but it does not improve the soil. Always install landscape fabric before the stone as a barrier to prevent stone from sinking down into the soil and weeds from coming up. You will also need to add fertilizer on a yearly basis.) As natural mulch decomposes, it improves the soil, growing healthier plants that are able to tolerate and even fend off insect and disease infestations. Try these top natural mulches:

1. **Wood bark mulch** – It's one of the most commonly used. It adds nutrients to the soil as it degrades and is often dyed to provide a more uniform color.
2. **Leaf mulch** – It's economical and easy to generate. Just don't use whole leaves, as they can form a thick and soggy mat in the spring. Chop up the leaves with the mower.
3. **Cypress mulch** - It has a fresh aroma, provides an excellent barrier against weeds, and is considered long lasting.

**DON'T make a "volcano" when mulching around your trees.** This method piles mulch in a hill up against the tree trunk. This can lead to fungus, insect and rodent damage, rot, and girdling roots, and ultimately can lead to the tree's death. Instead, spread mulch evenly around the perimeter of the tree, but keep the area around the base of the tree free of mulch. Think of this method as the "donut" method.

**DON'T remove the old mulch** - that defeats one of its purposes to decay and mix with the soil. Fluff the old mulch before adding new to prevent it from forming a hard surface that repels water.

**DON'T mulch your beds too thickly and especially too close to your house foundation;** instead, make sure the depth doesn't exceed 2 to 3 inches. Mulch that is too thick provides a winter home for rodents, such as voles and mice and a summer home for ground bees. And mulch doesn't cause termites to multiply but it can offer a conducive environment for the ones that are already in the area if applied to thickly up close to the foundation (4 inches or more).

**DON'T mulch too early or late.** As a general rule, wait until after a hard frost in the fall to apply winter mulch that will help protect tender perennials and roses. And after the last frost in the spring to apply summer mulch to help your plants survive hot, dry summer conditions.

**So give your soil and plants the protection they need, and give your landscape a clean, healthy look by mulching.**

(Reprinted from a Courier article by Linda Casey, July 21, 2018)

## Do You Give or Receive on Zucchini Tuesday?

Did you know that Tuesday, August 8th is "**Sneak A Zucchini on Your Neighbor's Front Porch Day**"? Will you sneak, or will you get snuck upon?

While this is a fun thing to do, it is important to remember if you have excess fruits and vegetables this time of the year, it is a great opportunity to share your bountiful harvest with others. A simple sharing can occur neighbor-to-neighbor, among friends and family members, among church members or excess produce can be donated food banks, kitchens or pantries. Different communities have different options.

You can also check locally to see if there are any gleaning projects in your area. Gleaning is where once a producer harvests what they need or desire from the field, groups of people can come in and harvest what remains. The "leftovers" would normally go to waste if it wasn't for gleaning groups. **So if you grow zucchini, don't forget to share! Even if you have to sneak it on someone's porch!**



## What's Bugging You?

### Late Summer Leaf Problems on Plants?

There are many reasons why this may be happening and it mainly depends on the plant where the problem is occurring.

**Insects** - Spider Mites live on the underside of leaves and suck the sap. This causes a stippling of the foliage leaving portions of the leaf to become yellow or bronze. These are very small insects so you mostly see the damage on your plant and not the spider mite. They can also make a fine web over the bottom of the leaf. Take a white sheet of paper and shake a branch on the paper, remove debris and then check the paper for tiny red dots. To control these insects, spray with most any insecticide.

**Vegetables** - Late Blight can occur on potatoes, eggplant, pepper and tomatoes. Spores from this disease are both wind and soil borne. That is why all debris from garden should be removed to help prevent the disease from reoccurring. Early detection is the best defense. It is worse during wet weather. Symptoms include black lesions that form on the fruit, and also appear on the leaves and stems. Spray with **Bonide Fung-Onil**.

**Roses & Flowering shrubs** - High humidity and rain can cause leaf spots on many roses and garden plants, such as Black Spot (yellow areas with black spots in the center) and Powdery Mildew (leaves have a whitish cast on the top). These diseases can be controlled with most fungicides. Roses that frequently get this disease may be prevented with a drench that contains insecticide and fungicide. Also, when watering the plants, water at the roots, not the leaves, to keep leaves dry.

### Leaves on trees and plants that are yellowing between the veins

- This is usually not a disease but instead a deficiency in the soil or a plants tolerance of the soil it's planted in. This causes Chlorosis which means the leaves are not able to produce the normal amount of chlorophyll that keeps leaves green. If all plants are affected it could be too much water or too much organic matter. If individual plants are affected there could be several reasons

**Lack of Nitrogen** - Use higher nitrogen fertilizer  
**pH of soil too high** - Most of the soil in our area has a high pH. This can cause an iron deficiency. Adding iron to the soil is not enough. There is usually iron in the soil but soil conditions limit how well the plant can use it. You need to reduce the soil pH by adding Sulfur or Aluminum sulfate. This should be done yearly. I see these problems on a lot of trees, especially Red Sunset Maple, Pin Oak, Snowfountain Cherry, Birch and more. I've seen some trees turn almost completely yellow! Other conditions that can cause this problem: Manganese or Zinc deficiency, herbicide damage, compacted soil, trunk-girdling roots, too much phosphorus or salt in the soil and plants too close together.

**Adding Gypsum to the soil will help with** - soil compaction, adds calcium and sulfur, helps chlorophyll formation, decrease toxic effects of salt and heavy metals and improves drainage.

# NEW LEAF

LANDSCAPE • GARDEN CENTER

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The more one gardens,  
the more one learns;  
And the more one  
learns, the more one  
realizes how little  
one knows.

~ Vita Sackville-West

## Garden To Do List August



### Garden:

- ☞ Sow seed or small plants of fall vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce and kohlrabi. We will have plants again this year to sell for fall planting.
- ☞ As vegetables are harvested, sow a cover crop such as winter rye. Sow seed, lightly cover & keep soil moist. Allow to grow 4-6 weeks before hard frost then turn under to improve soil.

### Perennials & Annuals:

- ☞ Divide & transplant peonies now. Replant with "eyes" 1-2" below the soil. Water well into fall to establish roots.
- ☞ Divide and transplant bearded irises, discarding any diseased rhizomes. Replant immediately with soil halfway up the rhizome and roots spread. Water well.
- ☞ Daylilies may be dug and divided this month. Each division should have at least 3 stems with roots attached and foliage cut back to 6".
- ☞ Divide any perennial where the center of the plant has died out; the plant is no longer flowering profusely or the plant is growing into the space of other plants.
- ☞ After Oriental and Asiatic lilies bloom, cut off top of stalk taking no more than 1/3 of the stem.
- ☞ Continue to deadhead perennials and annuals to keep the blooms coming. Keep fertilizing, also.
- ☞ Remove worn-out annuals and replace with mums.
- ☞ Gradually move houseplants into shadier locations to prepare for lower light levels. Be sure to check for bugs before bringing indoors. Treat if necessary.

### Landscape:

- ☞ Deep water trees and shrubs if rainfall is sparse. Plants need 1" of rain or equivalent per week.
- ☞ Mulch beds to conserve moisture. Put down a second application of weed preventer to prevent a 2nd generation of weeds and crabgrass in your beds.
- ☞ Prune suckers on fruit trees and ornamentals so they don't slow the plants growth or come back readily. Also prune water sprouts on apples and crabapples.

### Lawn:

- ☞ In the dry days of August, you may want to let your lawn go thirsty. Most varieties of grass will go dormant but recover when it rains. Don't abruptly stop watering your lawn if you have been, instead gradually cut back to minimize stress.
- ☞ Late summer and early fall is the time to treat your lawn for grubs, which mature into Japanese beetles and attract digging animals such as moles and raccoons.

## End of Summer Clearance Sale!

We are making room for NEW plants coming in so Selected, One-of-a-kind & Overstock

## TREES - SHRUBS - EVERGREENS

# 25-50% OFF

Check out our \$5.00 and 10.00 areas, too!

Selected Perennials & Garden Art also on SALE!



Our Garage Sale continues and will wrap up at the...

## Lincoln Highway **BUY-WAY** Yard Sale

August 9-10-11, 2018

Visit the 500 mile Lincoln Hwy. Yard Sale

and stop at New Leaf's Garage Sale along the way! Our

**FINAL MARK-DOWNS** will be made & **EVERYTHING MUST GO!**



## ARRIVING mid-AUGUST into SEPTEMBER!

Fall Mums & Asters

Fall Veggie Plants:

Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce & Kohlrabi

Fall Bulbs for spring blooms

NEW shipments of Trees, Shrubs & Perennials for Fall Planting

**REMEMBER - You can plant container grown & balled & burlap plants.....ALL SUMMER LONG!!!**



Visit our Beautiful

## LANDSCAPE DISPLAY

At the Hardin County Fair - Sept. 4-9, 2018

Just west of the Beef Barn



Open **LABOR DAY, Sept. 3 9-2**

VALUABLE COUPON!

# 10% Off

Regular Price of One

## Item of Your Choice

Good thru 8-31-18

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VALUABLE COUPON!

# 30% Off

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## Potted Tree

Of your choice - Cannot be combined with other discounts

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Any size - Reg. price

## Perennial

Limit of 3 offers per coupon  
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Ada Harvest &

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Sat. Sept. 15, 2018

SEE YOU THERE!

