

Mantoloking Environmental Commission Quarterly Newsletter

April 2013

Message from the Chairman

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Mission Statement:

"The Mantoloking Environmental Commission seeks to improve the environmental quality of our land, bay, and ocean. Through education and outreach, the Commission encourages citizens to incorporate environmentally responsible practices into homes, gardens, and daily life. The Commission's goal is to improve the health of the land and surrounding waters while reducing the potential to harm the environment."

Welcome to the first Mantoloking Environmental Commission (The Commission) Newsletter of 2013. The Commission has re-formed and re-purposed itself since Super Storm Sandy. While the damage Sandy did to our town is horrific and without precedent, it can also be seen as an opportunity. An opportunity to incorporate environmentally responsible landscaping, gardening, and green building techniques into our rebuilding efforts.

Now more than ever, the land and the surrounding waters of our town need our help to recover. Each of us is in a unique position to restore and nurture our lawns and gardens to help protect the land, bay, and ocean.

In addition to landscaping and gardening, we can implement building techniques and materials into our homes that help protect the environment and reduce our carbon footprint.

The information presented in this newsletter and future newsletters will highlight many of the techniques, plants, and materials to help us "Restore the Shore" Thank you.

Courtney Bixby

Gardens & Landscaping after Sandy

Spring is the season of new life. And, if ever we need to be reminded of the bounties of nature, it is this spring. Bruce Crawford, Director of Rutgers Gardens recently spoke to Bay Head and Mantoloking residents at St. Paul's Church in Bay Head. The topic of his talk was "Post Sandy Considerations." There was much hope in this talk that we would like to share with you.

The most important thing you can do is to be patient. Be sure you wait until the growth season has begun before deciding whether to give up on a plant or not. Shrubs and trees will have green under their bark if they are still alive. Be sure to check several spots on the plant, especially toward the trunk.

Remember that most of the damage done by the salt water bath was actually at the roots. If the leaves fall off, or if they are small and light yellow, this is indicative that there was root damage, so your first concern should be to help restore the health of these roots.

Don't prune until next growing season. If you need to trim off the dead growth, do so, but be sure to leave all green leaves. They are necessary for photosynthesis which will revitalize the roots.

Gardens & Landscaping after Sandy, cont.

If your plant has leaves that are small and light-yellow, this is indicative that they were damaged by the salt, not that they were killed by it. Give them time.



SOIL PREPARATION/REPARATION

Additional salt is not an issue for sandy soil, however, in soils that clump together such as clay and soils improved with organic matter, additional salt will prevent the soil from draining properly and will interfere with the soil's ability to hold nutrients. ***If your soil is predominantly sandy***, the rain alone will take care of the salt. It has been a rainy winter and each rain event washes some of the salt through the soil and away. If your soil test indicates you still have excess salt in your soil, more water will dilute it, so use a hose/sprinkler to wash the salt away.

If your soil has been enhanced, be sure you have it tested before you do anything. The best remedy is to add organic mulches and compost, especially shredded leaves. This will help drainage and help move salt deeper than the roots. Gypsum can also be used, but be sure it can be thoroughly mixed with the soil, not just sprinkled on the top.

DO NOT APPLY FERTILIZER OR LIME without a soil test. They increase the pH in the soil and can further burn the already damaged roots.

LAWN HEALTH

To see if your lawn will live, dig up a piece of it, put it in a pot and try growing it indoors. If it is kept in the sun in a 65-75 degree spot and kept evenly moist, green shoots will appear within two weeks.

If you need to replant your lawn, remember that most Kentucky Bluegrass varieties are not very salt tolerant. Most fine fescue and some bluegrass (not Kentucky) are more tolerant of salt. The most tolerant are tall fescue, perennial rye, creeping red fescue and Zoysia.

DR. CRAWFORDS SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUMMER

Roots have already been damaged, so beware during a drought.

Keep the root zone evenly moist and be sure to water thoroughly so water goes to the deepest roots. Most plants are happy with 1-1 1/2 inches of water, including rain, weekly. Two doses about every 3 days is the best method.

Only fertilize if clearly necessary. Remember that these plants have been traumatized. They could easily not look as healthy as usual this summer, but given a chance, they will rejuvenate. If a tree puts on 6-12" of growth, it doesn't need to be fertilized.

REPLANTING

Perhaps it's time to begin looking for plants that are more salt and wind tolerant.

Doctor Crawford has published a list of such plants on the following website: rutgers.rutgers.edu under the heading **Bay Head Lecture, March 11, 2013.**

"The most important thing you can do is be patient."



*“We are part of the earth
and it is part of us ... What
befalls the earth befalls all
the sons of the earth.”*
Chief Seattle, 1852.

Soil Testing

The flooding from Sandy gave all our plants a large salt bath. This was not necessarily lethal, depending upon species, location and individual plants. However, the soil content was undoubtedly affected and that could have an impact on the plants. Before you do anything to your plants or to the soil, have the soil tested by Rutgers or other soil testing labs. Go to <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/howto.asp> for more soil testing information.

If you are growing general shrubs and perennials in your garden, testing the pH content of the soil is most likely enough. pH affects the ability of a plant to absorb nutrients in the soil. The ideal pH balance will differ from plant to plant. If there are heavy metals in the soil, they will not damage most decorative plants.

If you are growing vegetables, however, heavy metal will be an issue, especially if the edible portion are green leaves where heavy metal accumulates. Heavy metal can be a health hazard to humans, so be sure to have the metal content of your soil tested along with the pH for vegetable gardens.

Hazardous & Solid Waste Disposal



Below you will find information on what, where, and when you may dispose of household hazardous waste and lawn clean up material. Please refer to the Borough website (www.Mantoloking.org) for normal household trash pickup.

Northern Ocean Recycling, New Hampshire Avenue, Lakewood
(732) 367-0802 Open 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Ocean County Residents only**

The following items are accepted:

Vegetation

Hazardous Waste (Call for local drop off dates)

Asbestos: This is accepted by appointment and with the filing of required documents.

Please note that many items like electronics, paint, motor oil and other fuels, batteries, and tires off the rim, are accepted at Northern Ocean Recycling.

For more information: www.co.ocean.nj.us/solidwaste/index.htm

Brick Recycling (across from Collingwood Auction & Flea Market)

5310 Rt. 34, Wall

(732) 477-0880

Scrap metal and other alloys like copper, nickel, bronze, brass, lead, cars, boats and appliances etc. are accepted. They will pick up! They will pay you! However, they will not accept any appliance that contains freon unless it is marked as having been discharged of this gas. This can be certified by a plumber.

Hazardous & Solid Waste Disposal, cont.



Ocean County Landfill

(732) 323-8528

2498 Route 70, Manchester, NJ 08759

Hours: 7AM – 3:30PM Monday –Friday, 7AM – Noon Saturday

Open to Ocean County residents. You do not need to provide proof of residence, but we recommend bringing a drivers license or the Mantoloking Directory to at least show that you have a home in Ocean County.

Fully loaded trailer or truck must be less than 9,000 pounds, however, if you are using a large truck to pull a loaded trailer, the truck can be over 9,000 pounds.

Cost: \$81.21 per ton. You weigh in on arrival and again at departure.

Animal Control

Animal control in Mantoloking is under control.

The wild animal population is harmless if you leave them alone.

Do not feed them which should help keep them in control. Do not go near them.

Enjoy them!

If you have serious problems you may contact the police department or the Borough Animal Control Liaison, Denise Boughton, for advice you on what to do.

The squirrels, foxes, geese, groundhogs, rabbits, seals, deer, and even a wild turkey all have a right to be here too.



"The best thing about animals is that they don't talk much."

THORNTON WILDER, *The Skin of Our Teeth*