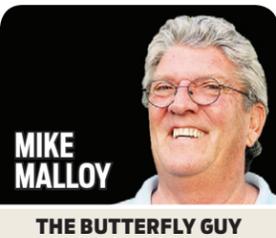


Neapolitan

HOME | CLASSIFIED

■ **Make It Green** How canopy trees play a part in modern "nature." **2D**

Friday, October 16, 2015



The blooms of our changing season

With summer gone and cooler temperatures coming, it's time to get ready for Florida's winter gardening season, a pleasant time to be outdoors.

This summer was the hottest I have experienced in more than 20 years of living in Naples and, lately, there's been plenty of rain. So for me and many of my gardening friends, a lot of time was spent admiring our yards from inside our air-conditioned homes. Now that the fall mornings are a little cooler, it's time to begin the transformation.

I will go step-by-step in resurrecting the garden to its spectacular winter appearance, something I think we all strive for.

First, rid the garden of all dead branches and shrubs that did not survive the summer heat and rains; clean dirt is always more eye appealing than a bunch of dead shrubs and flowers.

All drastic hard pruning should be done or is being done now. Only light pruning usually is required in fall and winter because the rate of new growth is slower than the summer, as we all know.

Severe pruning is frowned on in the winter because of possible freezing temperatures. When shrubs are severely pruned and exposed to cold weather, their chances of survival are lower. At best, they will be set back for several months, leaving eye sores in the garden that we are trying to avoid.

After the fall cleanup and the garden looks neat but a little empty, it's important to examine your garden's irrigation before replanting and replacing. Check to see that the system is working properly and that doesn't just mean water coming out of the irrigation heads. Make sure you are not wasting water,

See **SEASON, 7D**

Get Growing

Diagnosing plant problems

Master Gardeners will be on hand to help remedy your plant pest problems and recommend best-care techniques in the landscape.

Bring samples in plastic bags or photos to better diagnose the situation.

When: 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays

Where: Home Depot, Airport-Pulling Road and Davis Boulevard (inside the Garden Center), East Naples

When: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

Where: UF/IFAS Extension Collier County Office, 14700 Immokalee Road, Golden Gate Estates

Cost: Free
Information: 239-252-4800 or see collier.ifas.ufl.edu



THE RIGHT WAY TO RECYCLE



I have a friend whose idea of heaven is eating a big, juicy T-bone steak smothered in sautéed onions, served with a "loaded" baked potato, a salad and a bowl of ice cream. This friend claims popping a Lipitor with a red-wine chaser negates the effects of his deliberate cholesterol overload.

I know, what do recycling and cholesterol have in common? Simply put, just because there's a Materials Recovery Facility where human beings and machines sort paper, plastic

and glass doesn't mean you should buy cases of bottled water when a residential water purification system or Brita water filter will provide great tasting filtered water without having to recycle plastic bottles.

Protecting the environment is all about choices; just because an item is "recyclable" doesn't mean you should buy it.

Here are a few ideas that will make a difference:



CAFFEINE FIX

Choose to brew coffee the old-fashioned way or, if you choose to use a "pod" type of coffee maker, stick with a company that encourages recycling, such as the Nestlé Nespresso coffee company, which offers its customers free collection bags and free shipping/handling of used pods. www.Nespresso.com (Note: as of publication time, Keurig does not offer a residential recycling program.)

DON'T PICK PAPER

- Choose cloth instead of paper napkins.
- Choose a gift bag instead of wrapping paper when wrapping gifts.



H2O NO-NO

Choose not to buy bottled water, opting instead to filter your own water and use a BPA-safe water bottle. Worried about how to recycle the charcoal water filters, the Brita company participates in a nationwide recycling program through TerraCycle.com, which supports the recycling of No. 5 polypropylene plastics. (Customers are responsible for all shipping/handling costs. www.Brita.com.)

JILT YOUR JUNK MAIL

Choose to terminate the barrage of paper catalogs, newsletters, political solicitations, magazines and telephone books (but not your daily newspaper) by canceling the subscriptions and relying instead on the Internet for the most up-to-the-minute news and fashions.



PICNIC PRACTICES

- Choose inexpensive, dishwasher-safe utensils and BPA-safe plastic cups for poolside dining and picnics instead of using throwaway plastic utensils and plastic cups.
- Choose to use dishwasher-safe melamine (heavy-duty plastic) dishes rather than paper plates when going on a picnic. (Note: Melamine is not microwave safe.)

STYROFOAM FAUX-PAX

Choose to avoid using Styrofoam at all costs. When dining out and taking home a "people bag," request your leftovers be put in a non-Styrofoam container. And instead of using the throwaway cups at the golf or tennis club, carry your own BPA-free water bottle. (Note: Contrary to popular belief, Styrofoam is not recyclable in any way, shape or form.)



O CHRISTMAS TREE

Choose to purchase an artificial Christmas tree, which can be used year after year without having to worry about watering and picking up loose pine needles. If you miss the smell of a live tree, buy a candle.



SHOPPING SAVES

Choose to use reusable bags instead of paper or plastic when shopping. If you forget to bring your own bags, opt for paper, which is easier to recycle than plastic.

FRUIT NINJA

Choose not to buy pre-cut fruits and vegetables, which typically come in "recyclable" throwaway plastic containers; instead wash, slice, dice, cut and chop these items yourself.

REDUCE, REUSE, RETURN

Choose to return items for re-use rather than automatically recycling them. For example, plastic plant flats can go back to your local garden center to be reused by the plant vendors; wire hangers can be returned to the dry cleaner; glass vases of any size or shape can be returned to any florist for re-use or dropped off at your local Hospice center or hospital where they will be used to brighten a patient's day. And my personal favorite, Styrofoam peanuts can be "returned to sender" to any FedEx office or UPS Store for reuse.

DON'T GET GLAD

Choose glass or BPA-free plastic containers instead of using Glad or Hefty-brand reusable/disposable leftover containers which, because of their extremely porous nature, will end up in the recycle bin sooner rather than later.

If we all make a conscious effort to adopt a smarter, more considerate lifestyle in which we respect the environment and consider alternate choices, others will follow suit and make better, more environmentally conscious choices as well. The more we do, the more instinctive these actions will become.

Naples' Premier Professional Organizer Marla Ottenstein offers expert residential and corporate professional organizing services. Licensed & Insured. Member: NAPO. Her column appears on the first and third Fridays of each month. For information: www.ProfessionalOrganizerFlorida.com or email: Marla@ProfessionalOrganizerFlorida.com.