

Facts & Fallacies in Your Lawn, Landscape & Garden



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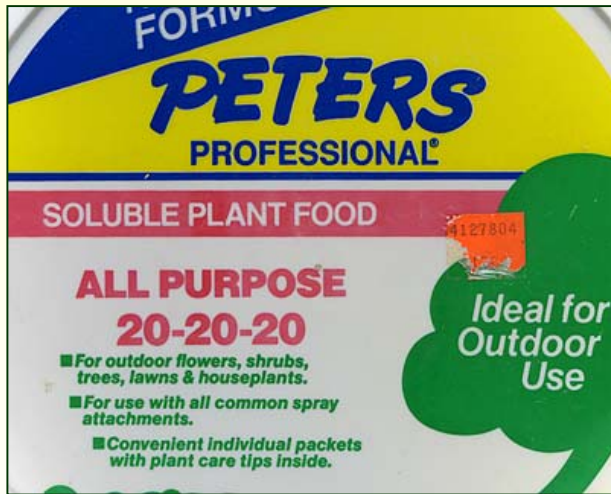
Benefits of Separating Fact From Fiction

- Can save money, or at least spend it wisely
- Save time and energy by doing things right once
- It's almost always good for the environment
- It makes gardening more pleasurable



Is Fertilizer Plant “Food?”

No - plants make their own food through the process of photosynthesis!



Houseplants Should Be Kept Warm at Night?

No – try to drop temperatures into the mid-50's at night (similar to much of Florida in January) for many houseplants.



Increasing Spacing Can Improve Tomato Harvest

Yes- increasing space between plants increases rates of photosynthesis and reduces diseases because leaves dry faster.



Plant Food Crops Close to the House

Yes – you'll be more likely to go to the garden after work and it'll be easier to water when necessary! Also, move away from square gardens and planting in rows to add visual interest.



Succession Planting Only Works For Vegetables

No – mix early, mid- and late season daffodils, lilacs, raspberries, apples, etc., to extend the season of bloom and/or harvest!



“Dwarf” Plants Never Grow Large

No! Many “dwarf” plants grow quite large over time including “dwarf” burning bush, “dwarf” Alberta spruce, and “dwarf” Korean lilac!



Best Time to Prune is At Your Convenience

No – putting the right plant in the right place can come close to eliminating the need to prune, however, if necessary, prune spring-blooming plants after flowering and summer-blooming plants in early spring. Also, selectively prune evergreens.



Fall, Not Spring is Best Time for Most Lawn Care Activities

Yes – most activities, including seeding, fertilizing, controlling weeds, etc. are most effective when done in the fall. In the spring, focus on mowing correctly!



Many Weeds “*Overrun*” CNY Lawns

No – weeds can’t “*overrun*” vigorous lawns. Rather, they move in when lawns become sparse, are damaged, or die.



Evergreens Are Best For Privacy Screen Plantings

Sometimes yes, but often no! Most evergreens simply grow too large for typical-sized residential properties. Better option is to use smaller flowering trees and shrubs planted close to outdoor living spaces.



Garden “Experts” Are The Best Source of Information

I often go to the source for the very best information – botanical gardens, arboreta and conservatories!

