



**CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER**

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[WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM](http://WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM)

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## Weekly Sales Begin July 6th-July 12th

Weekly sales will not be applied to previously purchased material.

**30% Off:**

- Perennial Grasses
- Fruit Trees
- Any metal yard art item (including pergolas, trellis, and spinners)



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## Let's Work Together

We briefly mentioned Japanese Beetles in the last emailer.

We many new gardeners joining us this year, we thought we would delve it a bit more as to proper control for these nasty bugs.

It is our job as gardeners to be pro-active when protecting other insects and bugs. 1 in 3 bites we eat requires a pollinator! If possible, if you choose to spray for beetles and your plant is a repeat bloomer, **clip off your blooms** so other beneficial insects are not drawn to the plant you just sprayed. Watch winds and be sure drift and over spray do not land on plant material the bees and butterflies enjoy.

Even though the damage of a beetle looks awful, typically a healthy tree, shrub, or perennial can push out new growth the same season. We have a Linden tree on the property that is decimated every year. The following spring the tree completely recovers and looks beautiful. The reason why this is important is to help gardeners realize that drastic measures may not be necessary. If you are working with a small rose bush, perhaps you take a bucket of soap and water out and handpick the beetles in the morning rather than treat chemically. It may take more time and a few may slip through your grasps causing a some damage, but your plant will survive.

As a garden center we do not carry the bait bags, but they do serve their purpose for larger yards. We don't carry the bait bags because we find most people place them in an area too close to their neighbors or desirable plants and draw in an over abundance of beetles without changing bags enough and cause more harm than good.

In the end, there are multiple ways to battle the beetles. Please come in and visit with knowledgeable staff prior to blasting the beetles with harsh chemicals that may also hurt our beneficial bugs.

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## Signs of Stress

The heat is coming, friends. No way around it. Some plants no matter how much you baby them will always act... like babies. The main culprit is the Hydrangea family.

Those big beautiful blooms almost always start just as the heat begins. This causes them greater stress than other plants. Once your plant has established you may see stress less often, but don't be surprised if you see drooping blooms and leaves on the super hot days no matter how old your shrub is.

Our gardens might have more plants showing heat stress than normal due to our weather patterns. For the most part, we went from rather cool and cloudy to strong UV and clear skies. Much like humans, plants adapt to their environment and weather patterns.

What can you do?

First, don't panic and then check your soil. As long as your shrub has adequate moisture, it will be okay. It might even

pop back up during the cooler evening temperatures.

Do not start watering your plants everyday. They do not need this, and you can actually be causing greater damage. The roots need to be trained to go down and search for water themselves.

Check your soil moisture three inches below the top. When watering, water at the base and give a good soaking. Let your soil dry, check, and repeat. A new planting should have it's soil checked every 2 days in heat. If you have an excessively sandy or clay soil, adjust accordingly.

If you begin to see yellow leaves, you have over watered.





## Lawn Slime

As cool wet weather stops and the heat come on, you will begin to see lawn fungus show.

I was mowing when I found this rather odd occurrence. This is appropriately named Slime Mold. I had never seen nor heard of it before, it was not pleased when I spotted the narrow strip that had changed to an odd grey blue.

It usually occurs during hot, wet weather and only lasts a couple weeks. As conditions dry out the slime mold changes and produces fruiting bodies full of spores that cover turfgrass leaves. Turf leaves may turn yellow during this period if they are completely covered by spores.

Slime molds are not infectious and are considered one of those turf diseases that is more cosmetic than anything. Fungicides are not necessary. Washing the mold from the leaves or light hand raking will help get rid of it quicker.



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