

Can A Septic Tank Ruin Shrubs?

Dear Plant Doctor: Please advise me as to what type of tree and shrubbery would do well in an area where my septic tank lines run.

I would like a tree that does not have a large root system, but that is also very attractive as it is easily seen from the road view of my home.

Last I worked the ground between the lines and planted a white dogwood with azaleas around it. The dogwood and several of the azaleas died later in the year.

I am not sure if the septic lines were the problem or if there was another reason for the death of these plants.

Please suggest several types of attractive trees or shrubs that would do well in this situation.

Answer: A properly functioning septic tank and leach field should not cause any problems for vegetation. However, if the leach field is saturated, you could have a perched water table that would adversely affect plant growth.

The plants for your landscape should be chosen on the basis of many factors, some of which include your (or family) needs, plant hardiness, required cultural practices and design criteria (form, color and texture of plant material).

One of the few points landscape architects and landscape designers will agree on is the fact that the primary focal point of a home landscape should be the home (or specifically the front entrance).

Everything you do to your landscape should complement and not compete with the architecture of your home.

THE PLANT DOCTOR
C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
Turf Specialist



The dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is an excellent small flowering tree, but can be easily killed if planted too deep.

Some other small flowering trees that you may want to consider include the Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), the Franklin tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*), Golden-Chain tree (*Laburnum anagyroides*) or the Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia soulangiana*).

All of these plants do well in the coastal Carolinas.

Use raised beds with plenty of well-composted organic matter for your azaleas. Good luck.

Dear Plant Doctor: I have been living in Fayetteville for about six and a half years and have learned to care for my centipede grass. However, I have encountered something this year that has me baffled.

There were a lot of ants in my lawn for the previous three years and I used Diazinon twice a year to control them. This year earth from around the centipede grass roots seemed to bubble up. No amount of

Diazinon or malathion seemed to deter whatever insect is causing the trouble.

It is not moles, nor is it ants. This pest causes little mounds which are about one inch in diameter with a height of about one-half inch. They are scattered throughout a lawn that was previously healthy.

I've talked to a number of people, but none of them knows what is causing the problem. Someone suggested that a mole cricket might be the problem.

What remedial action can I take to control this problem?

Answer: The first step is to positively identify the problem. Don't ever use pesticides when the pest is not known.

Contact Nathan Williams at the Cumberland County N.C. Cooperative Extension Service office (919-484-7156) and he can help you make a positive diagnosis.

Dr. Rick Brandenburg has recently published an excellent publication on diagnosing insect problems in turf called "Insect Management In Turf" -AG447. Just in case your problem does turn out to be mole crickets, I am also sending you "Mole Crickets In Turf" -Insect Note 79.

Send your gardening questions to *The Plant Doctor*, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422. Please enclose a SASE if you are requesting a reply.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Essays Were Tops

Shalotte Middle School eighth graders Chad Smith and Latoya Fullwood accept \$50 savings bonds from Calabash Elks Lodge 2679, presented by Harry Vincent, esteemed leading knight (right) as Assistant Principal William Detrie (background) looks on. The two won first- and second-place respectively in an essay contest on the U.S. Bill of Rights. Serving on the selection committee were Charlie Mahony, chairman, Casey Anderson and Hans Buff.

CLUB BRIEFS

Calabash Elks Award Three Scholarships At West High

Three West Brunswick High School seniors are receiving academic scholarships from Calabash Elks Lodge No. 2679 this year, according to John F. Ziefel, club spokesman.

Recipients are Jessica Rae Robinson of Route 1, Supply; Terrence M. Nawara of Calabash; and Jennifer Vereen of Route 3, Shallotte.

Miss Robinson has earned a 3.11 grade point average (GPA) and will receive a \$1,500 academic scholarship.

Nawara, who has maintained a 4.0 GPA, or all As, will receive a \$1,250 academic scholarship.

In a first-time award by the lodge, Miss Vereen will receive a \$500 nursing scholarship.

Ziefel said all three recipients were highly recommended to the club and are involved in numerous school and church activities.

Sandy Howard was chairman of the scholarship committee, serving with Al Wright and Jim Mahony.

Seniors Meet

A covered dish luncheon will be featured at the next meeting of the Town Creek Senior Citizens Club, set Thursday, March 5, at noon at Town Creek Township Park.

The Southport 55 And Over Club will join the group for lunch and a brief business meeting, and members are asked to bring breakfast cereals to donate to VIC.

Call Marie Young, 253-6839, for information.

Riverboating Was Topic

"Riverboating" was the subject of a program presented by Bonita Dale Brown of Currie at the Feb. 10 meeting of the Brunswick County Historical Society at the Leland Town Hall.

A native of Wilmington, Mrs. Brown now makes her home near Moore's Creek and the Black River, where she became interested in residents' tales of ancestors who worked on boats delivering supplies to early settlers. She has searched available records on approximately 100 steamboats that plied the waters of Black River and the Cape Fear

River, and has identified 115 known riverboat landings between Elizabethtown and Wilmington, reported society member Johnnie Holden.

Mrs. Brown displayed a sizeable collection of photographs of these side-wheelers, stern-wheelers, log rafts and riverside landings as she discussed the hazards of early riverboating.

The Brunswick County Historical Society meets quarterly, publishes a regular newsletter and supports the Local History/Genealogy section of the Brunswick Community College Library. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize the history of Brunswick County.

Memberships are \$10, annual; \$20, sustaining; and \$100, life. Dues are payable each January to the society at P. O. Box 874, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

Members Renew

The Ladies Auxiliary of Holden Beach VFW Post No. 8866 received a certificate at the recent district meeting in Leland for attaining 100 percent membership renewal in January.

The auxiliaries' next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, at 1 p.m. at the new post home on Sabbath Home Road.

Disabled Veterans To Sell Barbecue Saturday Feb. 28

Cape Fear Chapter No. 78 of Disabled American Veterans will sell pork barbecue dinners Saturday, Feb. 28, at chapter headquarters on Rhett Street in Southport.

Commander Al Hancock said plates selling for \$4 each will include hush puppies, cole slaw, baked beans and dessert. The sale starts at 11 a.m.

The ladies auxiliary will hold a yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the barbecue sale.

The DAV will provide free delivery for five or more orders of barbecue. For delivery, call 919-457-4364.

Red Or White

SEEDLESS GRAPES

69¢ Lb.



We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities.

89¢ Lb. FROZEN GRADE A 4-7 Lbs. AVERAGE TURKEY BREAST

Limit 3 per customer.

BIG NEWS!!

In the coming weeks, look for your occupation on our discount coupons! A different occupational coupon will appear each week. One coupon per person, per week can be used storewide—on total purchase!

THIS WEEK—

20% TrendSetter, Ltd. 20%

SECRETARIES

Feb. 19-25, 1992

TrendSetter, Ltd.

"We fit your lifestyle"

Ladies' Apparel, Accessories, Jewelry, Gifts

754-7300 • SHALLOTTE

TWIN CREEK (FOOD LION) PLAZA





2 Liter - Diet Coke, Sprite, Diet Sprite &

COKE CLASSIC

\$1.08

16 Oz. - Post

BRAN FLAKES

\$1.89





Prices in this ad good Wednesday, February 19 thru Tuesday, February 25, 1992.