



In the garden with Ed...

Summer / Fall 2007
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What's New?

- GLD Project Awarded Yard of the Month at Bridle Ridge
- New website – www.GeorgianLandscape.com
- GLD seen in the Gwinnett Business Journal, The Gwinnett Gazette and I Love Suwannee.com
- GLD now a part of [Merchant Circle](#)

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This Summer's Featured Project

Before



After



This is a Norcross residence that GLD completed in July. We did the design, the stone work including walls, a stone patio, rear patio planter, stone walkway and stone pillars. We also did some adjustments and additions to the irrigation system, removed and moved some shrubs, added landscape cloth to block weeds, added the LV wiring for future landscape lighting, and of course all of the new plants. This one should be a knockout come spring once the plants have had a chance to establish.

Before Deadheading



After Deadheading



Tips for the upcoming season

You've worked with me so you know how particular I am about making ~~my~~ / OK...OK - your garden look as it good as it possibly can. Well for those of you who said you wanted it here's the first of a series of newsletter's that can help you keep your landscape looking its very best. Hope you enjoy it!

If you've ever wondered why some landscapes always look so good (and you don't have a team of 20 people to maintain it like Post Properties) here are a few things to do while walking through your garden. If you do a little bit of this each week it will really pay big dividends in keeping your landscape the envy of the neighborhood.

Weeds - Pull 'em up! Come on - it's not that tough - not if you do a few each time you're out there! Same thing goes with that stray Bermuda grass that gets into your flower beds! If you really hate doing this get some Round-Up® and nuke'em. Just be careful to spray ONLY the weeds. A little trick here is to take a piece of cardboard or even a brown paper bag along with you and shield the plants you like while you spray the weeds you don't. Another way to hit those weeds that are in the middle of your prized Petunias is to get a small paintbrush and dip it into the RoundUp® or WeedBeGone® and paint it on - right out of the bottle. That'll get those little buggers, and I can almost guarantee you won't have to hit them again for at least another year!

Flowering plants: Keep a well sharpened set of small plant clippers near the door in your garage. When you're out in the garden just take them, along with a grocery store plastic bag, and **deadhead** (clip) the spent blooms from your flowering plants. Almost all flowering plants benefit from this process. Not only does this neaten-up your landscape, but when a plant does not have to feed a spent bloom it will generally send up new and additional blooms to take the place of the ones you've removed. You'd be amazed at the difference this makes in how healthy and full of flowers this 10 minute exercise can make.

Knockout roses (pic) really respond well to this process (just clip off the dead flower head just above the next 5 leaf cluster). Same thing for **daisies**, **camellias** and many other flowering plants - just clip them off just above the next group of leaves. If you have daylilies just pull up the brown / yellow fronds and flower stems by hand and you'll be amazed by how they'll fill out with new flowers! Just don't cut **Azaleas** or **Rhododendrons** right now. The time to do this is right after they've bloomed. If you cut them now you are

cutting off next year's flowers!

Also - don't be afraid to clip back any wild stems that may sprout up and make your plants look mis-shaped. If you do this when they're still short it's an easy job - just clip the wild stem well down into the plant with the hand clipper - a new set of branches will grow at the cutting site - filling-in the plant from the inside - not just from the top or outside edges.

Shrubs: The same process as described above is great for pruning shrubs if you do it on a regular basis. BUT - use a small to medium sized hand clipper - not the old "Binford 2000" hedge trimmer. The clipper will make the plant fill out more and not get leggy and airy at the bottom. A hedge trimmer is great for some larger shrubs - but in general this process will only make the wild stems grow even wilder and thicker. Using the "Ol Binford" will also make the entire top of the plant flush with new growth but this will just block the sunlight to the lower branches causing them to lose leaves, get leggy - and you'll need to trim them even more often on the tops!

Mulch: If your mulch is starting to look bleached out and dry take a hard rake and just rough it up a bit. This brings the moist, darker mulch to the top and makes it look fresh - as long as you have a layer a couple of inches deep to work with. I've found that you can generally do this a couple of times a year with nice results. I just add a light layer of new mulch over the top once a year to dress up the beds - and this is fairly inexpensive compared to having to buy countless bales of pinestraw twice a year. NOTE: Be careful with the "dyed" or colored mulches. There is some evidence that the dyed mulch tends to attract termites vs the natural dark hardwood mulch varieties - and NO - I don't know why - maybe they're just tired of a bland diet!

Pine-Straw: If it's been in over 6 months since you last put down new pine-straw yours is likely looking pretty sparse and bleached out by now. Both sun and water erode pine-straw within a few months (which is why I prefer Mulch). Both pine-straw and mulch do a lot to keep your plant roots cool and help retain moisture in our hot summer months, and they also help prevent weeds from germinating in your beds. So it's not a bad idea to refresh your pine-straw about every 6 months - but you need to put down at least 3 inches of fresh straw for it to last awhile and be beneficial. It not only will keep your garden looking great but help your plants stay healthy (and prevent your back from going out from pulling weeds).

Landscape lighting: Your landscape lighting really does a lot to improve the street appeal of your home - (at least at night) - and it too can use an occasional sprucing up! **WITH THE POWER OFF - REPEAT AFTER ME - WITH THE POWER OFF!** ...take a small bucket of water - mixed it with vinegar (about 2/3rd water to 1/3rd vinegar) and unscrew the lens from your light fixtures. Clean the lens on both sides and dry off with a towel. Also - using a long, soft-bristled paint brush, **clean** out the interior of the lens around the bulb area. This is a favorite place for small bugs & spiders to build a home, and they tend to cloud out the bright metal reflector housing (which cuts down on the reflected light) and can even short out the connections over time. Needless to say this would be a good time to replace any bulbs that have blown out or have gone dull / yellow. You'd be amazed at how much light you lose over time due to dirty lenses, reflectors and fading bulbs.

The end...

That's it for this newsletter. Let us know if it was helpful - or if you have any ideas for future ones - or if you'd like to be removed from our mailing list. In the meantime don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. I'm not "Walter Reeves" - but if I don't know the answers I'll contact him or **some of** my other sources and get you the best possible advice.

Thanks for being a client - and for all of the great referrals - we really appreciate you. And special thanks to those of you who have taken the time to Rate and Review us in the on-line Yellow Pages and Merchant Circle. What **I** say means nothing but what **you** say about us means everything to our future clients!

Ed & the GLD team

PS - If you're thinking about your fall annual beds in about a month or so we do "Seasonal Color Management" for our clients. Give us a call - we'd be happy to help!

Newsletter design, graphics and editing by Jeanine Szczesniak - GLD.