Good things happen to those who Verti-Drain® more often.

Of course, we know that life isn't always fair. But sometimes if you do one thing right you gain great rewards. Sometimes more than you deserve. We like that when it happens to us. The converse, unfortunately, isn't so much fun. And so it is with those who aerate only once a year. That one little oversight can cost them, especially when turf conditions get tough.

Aerating with a Verti-Drain 2, 3 or 4 times a year using various methods works a little like insurance for your turf. You know, you don't always have to pull plugs and fill every time you aerate.

There are lots of options - solid tining, hollow coring, needle tining - to name a few.

It's all based on releasing the soil and getting more air and water to the roots. That's how you get root growth past 6" deep. As far as compaction is concerned, it's an ongoing effort. The more you break it up, the better off you are 'cause you know it's coming back if you have any traffic at all.

So give yourself a chance, enjoy the rewards. Give your soil a chance - the paybacks are great. Get a Verti-Drain. Take control.

Circle No. 127 on Reader Inquiry Card
Check out these features that set the Dixie Chopper apart!

Velvet Touch Control Steering - Every "Z" Mower Should Be This Smooth
Lifetime Mower Frame Warranty* - it Doesn't Get Any Better Than This
Top Ground Speed of All "Z" Mowers - Makes YOU More Productive
Engine Options Include Honda, Kawasaki, Kohler, and Yanmar Diesel Power

Call today to experience the Dixie Chopper and see what you've been missing in your business. We'll be glad to tell you and show you what tens of thousands already know; the Dixie Chopper is tops for "Price, Performance and Reliability".

Circle No. 117 on Reader Inquiry Card
Selecting ornamentals

Understanding how different plants respond in different regions might help you find something new for your client.

BY DANIEL WEISS/ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Over the years, hundreds of articles have been written on selecting plants. That's because there are hundreds of things to think about when selecting ornamentals. I want to propose two new ways of thinking about plants for your customers or yourself: Know the differences and try something new.

Know the differences

Plants rarely browse the references written about them. If they did, they'd find many of these references are written at a national or even international level. With such a broad scope of coverage, there could be some confusion when palms, which don't survive in northern climates, are listed in a general reference manual. More confusion may occur when looking at plants that survive in Florida that have a related species that grows in Minnesota, or the same species grows in both locations to a much different outcome. The Viburnum species has plants adapted to Florida, but different ones grow in Minnesota. Plants installed in different regions, though the same, behave differently.

Also, plant catalogs advertise nationally. Though these catalogs may solve the problem of availability, plants listed may not live in a specific region. Plants respond differently in Florida than they would in Minnesota and vice versa. Therefore, cast a
TABLE 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Cornus florida</em> (flowering dogwood)</td>
<td><strong>Michigan:</strong> understory tree, protect from wind &amp; salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>North Carolina:</strong> full sun turf tree, street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Buddleia davidii</em> (butterfly bush)</td>
<td><strong>Michigan:</strong> tender woody plants, dies back down to ground, grows 4 to 6 ft., good use in a perennial garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>New Mexico:</strong> woody shrubs, grows 6 to 15 ft., use in perennial border or informal shrub mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tsuga canadensis</em></td>
<td><strong>Kentucky:</strong> can use for street tree (Canadian hemlock)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Michigan:</strong> needs wind and salt protection, partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhododendron catawbiense</em></td>
<td><strong>Michigan:</strong> avoid western and southern exposure, protect from northern winds, grows 4 to 6 ft., possibly a little larger if well cared for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pennsylvania:</strong> good evergreen screen, grows 10 to 16 ft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Substitution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Cornus florida</em> (flowering dogwood)</td>
<td><em>Cornus kousa</em> (kousa dogwood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hemerocallis</em> (daylily)</td>
<td><em>Liriope spicata</em> (creeping lily turf)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Craetaegus sp.</em> (hawthorne)</td>
<td><em>Chionanthus virginicus</em> (white fringe tree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer sacharum</em> (sugar maple)</td>
<td><em>Cladrastis lutea</em> (yellowwood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Euonymous alata ‘Compacta’</em> (burning bush)</td>
<td><em>Viburnum dentatum</em> (arrowwood viburnum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Syringa vulgaris</em> (common lilac)</td>
<td><em>Vitex agnus negundo</em> (lilac chaste tree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Azalea sp.</em> (rhododendron)</td>
<td><em>Daphne x burkwoodii</em> (burkwood daphne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juniperis horizontalis</em></td>
<td><em>Microbiota decussata</em> (Russian cypress)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Spiraea bumalda ‘Goldflame’</em></td>
<td><em>Callicarpa dichotoma</em> (beautyberry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Picea abies ‘Conica’</em> (dwarf alberta spruce)</td>
<td><em>Sciadopitys verticillata</em> (Japanese umbrella pine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cotoneaster horizontalis</em> (rockspray cotoneaster)</td>
<td><em>Erica or Caluna sp.</em> (heath or heather)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hydrangea sp.</em></td>
<td><em>Aronia melanocarpa</em> (black chokeberry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Amelanchier sp.</em></td>
<td><em>Amelanchier sp.</em> (nothing beats a good amelanchier!)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This white fringe tree is a multi-stem tree, and has a fragrant white flower in late spring and a yellow fall color. The flowers are pendulous and delicate looking. It may be a matter of sur-vivability. When I told a customer that Bougainvillea didn’t grow in Michigan, she thought I was joking! These items need to be kept in mind, especially when using new plants.

Looking at Table 1, you can see that the range of behaviors and characteristics detailed in reference lists may not hold for a plant installed in multiple regions.

Try something new
The good old favorites we select are often our good old favorites for many reasons. They’re hardy where they’re planted, offer...
This amelanchier creates a beautiful arch over some hydrangea. It's difficult to beat as a total package: hardiness, availability, cost, white flowers in spring, open shrub or tree, edible berries, apricot fall color, few disease and pest problems.

good flower, form or color characteristics, are cost effective and readily available. You can never replace a good burning bush, hydrangea or sugar maple, but there are situations where other plants you haven’t thought of recently can be used.

Plant selections also change due to pest and disease problems associated with specific plant species. For instance, Cornus florida has had a problem in recent years with anthracnose, and cultivars of Malus can be selected for hardiness to fireblight and applescab if these diseases are prevalent in a certain region.

Table 2 is a listing of plants with plant substitution suggestions. These new plant suggestions aren’t supposed to replace the old favorites, but, in an installation, one new plant in place of an old one might prove to be exciting not only to the customer but to you as well. LM

— The author is president of Natural Landscape Design and Maintenance, Inc., Keego Harbor, MI. He can be reached at 248/333-4986.

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**THE POWER OF CHOICE**

Meyer is the only snow plow manufacturer that offers a complete selection of steel or polyethylene Snow Plows to fit your specific vehicle. And check out the new MD II Snow Plow Mounting System. It's a one piece system, it's a two piece system. It's common to Meyer or Diamond Snow Plows. One model covers several vehicle models.

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Introducing the AGCO ST series, a whole new line of powerful compact tractors, ready to tackle any job on your work site. These aren’t a bunch of fancied-up lawn mowers. They’re designed from the ground up for the agriculture and commercial professional. And they’re from AGCO Corporation, with 100 years of tractor building experience.

With six models, ranging from 24 to 44 horsepower, there’s one that’s right for any job or budget. All models feature standard 4WD, power steering, spring suspension seat and enough elbowroom for the guy they call “Tiny”. And they’re covered by a 24-month/1,500 hour warranty, backed with one of the largest dealer networks in the country. So take a look at the new, tough AGCO ST commercial tractors. Every one is a glutton for punishment.

For the AGCO dealer nearest you, visit www.dealers.agcocorp.com.
Tree tools go high tech

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Tree management has gone high tech. While the old standbys like tree trimmers and tree spades remain important parts of the landscaper's toolbox, the business has changed.

Injectable and sprayable materials are making it easier for landscapers to keep trees healthy in an environmentally friendly manner.

The environment gets a boost from new mulching products, too. One product contains at least 80% recycled tire rubber. The recycled material forms protective decoration for trees and shrubs in areas where cypress mulch or bark chips are unavailable or impractical.

Of course, there are plenty of traditional tools available as well. Check them out below.

BANDIT INDUSTRIES
800/952-0178
www.banditchippers.com
Chip whole trees, tops, limbs or gnarled material with limited need to trim. Reduce an 80-ft. whole tree to dimensional chips in under a minute with the 1850 Track Bandit from Bandit Industries, Remus, MI. It will produce a 25-ton load of chips in an hour's time. Units are available in 14-, 18- and 19-in. models, towable or self-propelled.

BIG JOHN
800/643-8039
www.big-john.com
Truck-mounted tree transplanters from Big John, Heber Springs, AK, can handle tree trunks from 3 to 12 in. in diameter. The 12 to 15 gpm hydraulic system on the Model 45 can handle a root ball up to 42 in. wide, 38 in. deep and 1,500 lbs. The Model 90 can handle a root ball up to 90 in. wide, 60 in. deep and 11,800 lbs.

Buying questions for chippers

- Does it have enough horsepower?
- Is it towable or self-propelled?
- How much material can it handle?
- How quickly can it do the job?
- What size models are available?
John Deere’s CS62 heavy duty chain saw

continued from page 57

FINN CORP.
800/543-7166
www.finncorp.com
Specially designed for tree work, the Tree Fork from Finn Corp., Fairfield, OH, features a hydraulic fork which grabs trees and large shrubs for accurate placement. Hydraulically operated, it handles tree balls up to 36 in. in diameter. The company also has a line of adjustable forks that can carry or maneuver fence posts, plant materials, pallets and other bulky supplies. Either unit will attach to the Finn Eagle compact skid steer loader.
Circle #286

GROWTH PRODUCTS
800/648-7626
www.growthproducts.com
ArborCare 15-8-4 with 40% slow release nitrogen plus micros is one of several professionally formulated tree care products from Growth Products, White Plains, NY. The full line is made up of a microbial inoculant, high-analysis liquid fertilizers, chelated micronutrients, a natural biostimulant and rooting compound, and a pH reducer. Companion microbial inoculant restores beneficial microbes to the soil.
Circle #287

HUSQVARNA
704/597-5000
www.husqvarna.com
The 325P4 pole trimmer from Husqvarna, Charlotte, NC, weighs just 10.4 lbs. but is powerful enough to do most jobs. Its 24.5cc engine develops 11,000 rpm at 1.2 hp. It has a reach of 13 ft., 1 in. Unit comes standard with 12-in. bar, but a 10-in. bar is available as an option.
Circle #288

JOHN DEERE
800/537-8233
www.johndeere.com
The line of professional grade chain saws from John Deere, Research Triangle Park, NC, includes the CS36 and CS40 lightweight professional saws, the CS56 and CS62 (pictured) heavy duty professional saws, and the CS71 and CS81 professional saws. The lightweights have 32.5 cc and 39 cc engines with 2.1 and 2.4 hp and bars from 12 to 18 in. The CS56 and CS62 develop 4.1 and 4.7 hp respectively and offer bars from 16 to 24 in. The CS71 and CS81 come with 20- to 32-in. guidebars and 3/8-in. chains.
Circle #289

LEBANON TURF PRODUCTS
800/233-0628
www.lebturf.com
Just drop and stomp any of the tablets in the complete line of Woodace products by Lebanon Turf, Lebanon, PA, designed specifically for the professional who maintains landscape plants. Products range from the ACRE 12-3-6 fertilizer tablet for foundation plantings to the 14-14-14 flowering and the 18-5-10 long term formulation. All feature IBDU (isobutylidene diurea) slow-release nitrogen. Products come in tablet form, packed in a re-sealable bucket.
Circle #290

LITTLE WONDER
877/596-6337
www.littlewonder.com
Lightweight but rugged, the family of trimmers from Little Wonder, Southampton, PA, pack power to cut growth from shrubs and hedges up to 1/2 in. thick. All units have two reciprocating, hand-finished blades made of high-carbon steel. Single-edge blades are available on 19-, 24- and 30-in. models. Double-edges, suitable for right or left-handed use and making cuts in any direction, are available in 19-, 24- and 30-in. models. Company claims units are virtually vibration-free, even at 2,400 cuts per minute.
Circle #291

continued on page 61
Landscape professionals asked us for a Lazer Z with even more power and performance.

27-hp Liquid-Cooled Diesel

- The Lazer Z XP Series is proof positive we listened. A DynaFocal engine iso-mount system dramatically reduces vibration. The dual mule drive system—based on proven Lazer Z deck drive technology—delivers maximum power to the 60” or 72” UltraCut” deck. Generating ground speeds up to 11.0 mph forward and 7.0 mph reverse, the XP Series features a unitized, tubular frame which minimizes vibration and extends product life. Its compact design lowers the center of gravity for greater stability. Listening and then delivering is a big reason why Exmark is the best-selling brand of mowing equipment for landscape professionals.

Register to win a FREE trip at www.exmark.com

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BEST professional turf fertilizers lead the industry with a broad mix of technologies, some of which include: homogenous pellets, controlled-release POLYON® PRO™ and TriKote®, stabilized nitrogen UMAXX® and UFLEXX®.

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Reliable N-P-K delivery, balanced secondary elements and micronutrients, predictable response, consistent results are what you will see every time you apply BEST fertilizers.

BEST backs its distributors with thorough product training and state-of-the-art order processing to ensure you get the precise product you need, when you need it. For all the reasons why we’re BEST, visit your distributor or call 800-992-6066.

Circle No. 131 on Reader Inquiry Card