

Grab Bag

Grubs best when not too gritty

Most of us have battled white grubs, but how many of us have considered eating them? One person who has is Dr. Dave Shetlar, or so he says.

"People get real nervous when I serve cocktail shrimp," says Shetlar.



The turf and landscape entomologist with The Ohio State University Extension refers to grubs as "land shrimp."

Says Shetlar, "most people get real nervous when I serve cocktail shrimp." He recommends third instar grubs which he describes as "big, fat and sassy." If you don't want your grub snack gritty, put them, alive of course, in sawdust for a day or two before serving, jokes Shetlar.

Shetlar and Dr. Harry Niemczyk recently co-hosted the annual "Grub Dig" near Wooster, Ohio.

Grab Bag is a LM department that features brief observations and prognostications throughout the green industry. If you have an unusual photo or comment you'd like to share with us, please send it in...

Looks good enough to eat...but please resist

Hansel and Gretel have never signed the guest book, but The Gingerbread Mansion, a bed and breakfast located in the Victorian Village of Ferndale, in Northern Calif., has a 'sweet' landscape appeal. Horticulturist Larry Martin tends the formal English garden, which contains topiaries, two-story high camelia bushes, and myriad fuschias. The Village of Ferndale serves a scant 1500 residents, and dairy farming and tourism are the city's principle industries. The mansion is located five miles from the ocean, and its architecture is a combination of Queen Anne and Eastlake styles, trimmed with ornate gingerbread...the pretend kind. Ken Torbert is the innkeeper.



PHOTO BY LARRY KASSELL

Too many crows

Who do you call with your crow problems? Why, your friendly local landscaper, of course.

"A black cloud of over 10,000 crows descended on the trees of a large corporate headquarters here in Hartford," relates Judy Guido of Laflamme Services. "They were creating a lot of noise and a lot of mess, especially on the executives' cars."

The trees were apparently right beneath the crows' migratory path, and they needed a rest for a while last July. Not only was Laflamme involved in trying to get rid of them, but

so also was the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. EPA and the Hartford Police Department. Local television crews were called out (to interfere, of course).

Laflamme supervised three control options. The first, exploding shells that created a ruckus not unlike M-80 firecrackers on the Fourth of July, did not work.

"They scared them," says Guido, "but they would come right back."

The third option was to haul out firearms and begin plucking the crows from the trees, one by one. Fortunately,

it never got to that ("Nobody wanted to do that," Guido notes).

However, Laflamme personnel had great luck with the second option, and the crows were gone in 1½ days.

"One of our employees has his wildlife nuisance license and he found a tape recording of a crow distress call," Guido says. "We amplified it and played it for the crows and they were gone in no time."

"Now, Laflamme Services has something to 'crow' about."

Indeed.