



St. Augustinegrass, tall fescue (left) and perennial ryegrass can be troubled by gray leaf spot

addition to brown patch or large patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*).

What's old is new again

In the 1920s, the first fungicide for turf disease control, Bordeaux mixture, was actually a combination of two products: copper sulfate and lime. Old ideas, it seems, can be good ones and finding the right mixture and adding a bit of modern technology creates some of the best solutions.

Not all fungicides are alike, of course; they each have their strengths and weaknesses that must be recognized if they're to be used to greatest advantage. How-

ever, by putting two or more fungicides together for disease control several advantages occur. This is evident in Armada, a product offered by Bayer Environmental Science. The product provides broad-label control of many of the major lawn diseases, such as brown patch, dollar spot, anthracnose, fusarium patch, gray leaf spot, leaf spots (*Bipolaris* spp.), summer patch, pink patch, red thread, stripe smut, southern blight and rapid blight.

With these types of products (mixtures) you do not have to keep up with two active ingredients, look up rates for each, mix in the proper proportions or

wonder about incompatibility. Also, mixtures can even be more economical than purchasing the separate fungicides.

In the case of Armada, both active ingredients have cases of documented resistance. Therefore, the label indicates that no more than two sequential applications be made to turf when gray leaf spot is the targeted disease, or no more than three sequential applications for any other turf disease. In lawn care, with the restrictions placed on chlorothalonil use, our options for resistance management are limited, so use fungicides prudently in a well-thought-out integrated pest management strategy. **LJM**

— The author is in the department of entomology & plant sciences, plant pathology & physiology at Clemson University. He can be reached at sbmrtn@clemson.edu.

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(see page 93)

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Circle 117



Impatiens, such as this Fanfare Bright Coral Spreading variety, grow in sun or part shade.

Annuals

it pays to be picky

Remember, every bad plant you don't plant in the first place is one you won't have to replace later.

BY JEFF GIBSON

Anuals are go-to plants for providing masses of color in landscape designs. Color in the landscape automatically becomes a focal point drawing the viewer's gaze immediately. So, it's crucial to choose the right plants for the project.

Not all annuals are created equal: even varieties in the same species can differ greatly in terms of landscape performance and maintenance needs. Clients, whether commercial or residential, expect the

landscape professionals they hire to install the best plants for the job. Get it right, and you've got a beautiful landscape that you can use to not only get repeat business, but also to attract new customers. Get it wrong, and you've got a potentially costly, time-consuming problem. Getting it right doesn't have to be difficult.

First, stay on top of what's new and what's best for landscape applications. A little research goes a long way. Start with your grower supplier, who can be an invaluable source of information about what's new in the marketplace. Often, growers have opportunities to trial plants

continued on page 94



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Magilla Vanilla Perilla

continued from page 92

before they're commercially introduced. Your grower may be able to offer great insight on the performance attributes of new annual plants. If you don't already work with a grower, start now.

Check with your local grower or landscape associations, or research online at sites such as BallLandscape.com. Visit university trials, trade shows and even local garden centers to see a wide array of varieties first-hand. Talk with knowledgeable people about what's new. Also, read consumer gardening magazines; writers for these magazines often get advanced looks at new plants and tell their readers

about their favorites. Many of your customers are reading these magazines. Finally, go online and you'll find a huge amount of information about top plants for landscapes, often available specifically by region.

Know your planting sites

Before you order any plants, perform an analysis of the project site. Pay special attention to environmental factors such as sunlight levels, moisture, wind, general temperatures and any existing structures or plants. Measure the planting area, of course, so you'll know how many plants you need to fill the space. Talk with the client about preferred or disliked colors and ongoing maintenance, of course.

Order from your grower as far in advance as possible — four to six months prior to installation if possible. This can vary depending on the type of plant and the grower's own policies. Because most annuals only require a few months for growers to produce, ordering early allows you to have the best chance of getting exactly what you want, when you want it.

When it comes to choosing a good plant, start from the bottom up. Pull a couple of plants out of their pots or trays and look at the roots; if they're healthy and white, and if there are lots of roots,



Petunias, like the Tidal Wave Cherry Spreading, version are fast growing.

chances are the rest of the plant is healthy, too. Examine the leaves, which should exhibit good color no matter what color they are (not all leaves are green, of course). A flowering plant should be installed when about one-quarter of the blooms are open, with a lot of buds to show more flowers are coming soon. At this stage, plants recover well from transplanting stress and get used to their new environment more quickly and easily.

Make sure there are no signs of disease such as wilting, spots, discolored leaves or misshapen flowers, buds or foliage. (Even if you don't know the scientific name for what makes a plant look unhealthy, you can usually tell when one looks "sick.") And just remember that if you wouldn't plant it in your own yard, your client doesn't want it in theirs, either. When in doubt, remember that every bad plant you don't plant is one you won't have to pay to replace later.

— *The author is the Business Development Manager for Ball Landscape.*

He can be reached at 630/588-3468 or jgibson@ballhort.com.



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February 2007

Editor's Press Box

NFL players wish it was real synthetic
By Ron Hall
This year's NFLPA survey reveals players feel grass is similar to them, but does it mean a thing to the rest of us? [More...](#)

Turfgrass Technology

Greene Field at Hobbs named "Durable Field of 2006"
Hobbs and Greenough, popularly referred to as Hobbs, is a construction, manufacturing 5-day learning school for students in grades seven through 12 in Duxbury, MA. [More...](#)

Builds a new turfgrass field. Build your team first
By Tommy Dumais, Jim McAlister, Ph.D.
Getting your committee up and running is the first step in the construction of your field or sports field complex. [More...](#)

Unique systems shows promise in courts
Originally manufactured in the early 1960s, these mats are used to help remove sand and construction debris. How it's being used [More...](#)

Keeping a keen eye on efficient water
By Ron Chelmer, Ph.D.
Irrigation control during establishment of tall fescue seed is difficult for many reasons. First considered safe on fully established stands, detrimental to newly developing seedlings. [More...](#)

Synthetic Turf

The Ohio State breaks turfgrass for its University athletic officials said the decision more time to practice on the field, and to go [More...](#)

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- Add-on Biz: Hydroseeding

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FEBRUARY 2007

Project of the Month

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By David G. Jacobs
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FIELD REPORT: Communicate with clients and break from the pack
By Ron Hall
"It is impossible for your competition to treat your customers the way you do," said Marty Gruber at the Bayer Healthy Lawn/Healthy Business Summit in Cleveland, Feb. 20. [More...](#)

Caution pesticide opponents ready for spring push
A number of environmental, public health and medical organizations are turning up the heat on Ontario provincial lawmakers to ban what they describe as aesthetically use of pesticides. [More...](#)

PLANET prepares for National Lawn Care Month reports growth in Green Industry in 2004. PLANET conducted a national survey that reported that homeowners spent \$11.6 billion on their lawns in 2003, up 12% from 2002. [More...](#)

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The design

An environment in character with the architecture of the formal house, but with a "looser" feel.

The site before construction

The site had a 50 ft. cross slope with which to create a level appearance. Placing the home to minimize the appearance of many large retaining walls was critical.



Project Requirements

- Present the home graciously and provide ample guest parking.
- Maintain a "living in the woods" feel but complement the formal architecture of the home.

Project Specifics

The landscape architect was brought in when the lot was purchased and was able to place the home to achieve the client's goals. Due to physical limitations, all spaces needed to be on the same elevation as the main floor. Another challenge was mitigating drainage on the high side of the property and properly dispersing the water. The pool was built in fill soil, so engineering the walls properly was paramount.



ABOVE The three-tiered fountain is symmetrical to the opposing spa. It can be enjoyed all year.

RIGHT Views from the main rooms to the terrace were important to the client. This view of the bluestone patio can be seen from the main hall down to the front entry doors.



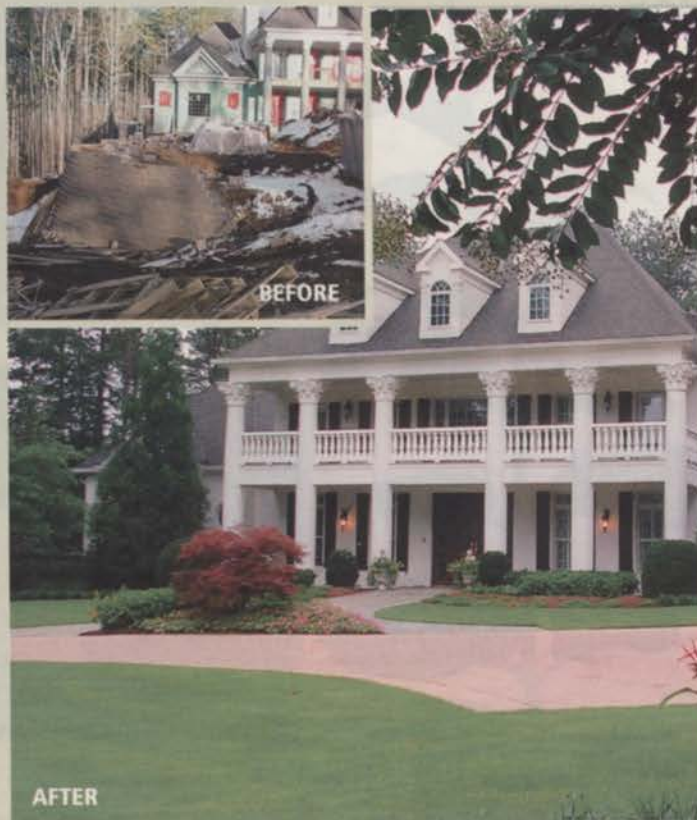


ABOVE The backyard terrace is a colorful, functional, entertaining environment nestled into the wooded setting.

LEFT Elegant and formal, the backyard environment terminates with a curved wooden arbor.

Project Principals

- Scapes, LLC, Atlanta, GA, www.scapessgroup.com
- Pete Wilkerson, landscape architect.
- Dathan Mitchell constructed the home and driveway.



LEFT Before construction, this front view of the site reveals the cross-slope that created a challenge to a level landscape appearance. After, the front of the home is framed by large cryptomeria, boxwoods and features a Japanese maple. The guest parking is incorporated to the side, but is easily accessible from the front door.

This project was a Grand Award winner in PLANET's Environmental Improvement Awards program. For more information on this program, or other services of the Professional Landcare Network, please call 800/395-2522 or visit www.landcarenetwork.org.

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