

# THE BUGGETTE



## Bare in Mind

by Josh Bare

One of the many benefits of having kids is the opportunity to relive your childhood. As a kid, I played with Legos quite a bit. I especially enjoyed the castle series. My brother and I spent hours building the Black Monarch castle, King's Castle, Black Falcon's castle and the Foresters' Hideout. Some of the castles even had little jail cells for the bad guys.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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## Making Water Work for You

Everyone knows how important it is to drink lots of water, especially in the summer months, but plain ol' H<sub>2</sub>O can be a bore. Adding citrus, watermelon or cucumbers to your water jazzes up the flavor while providing some of the nutrients you need to stay healthy and cool.



## Beware of the Mulch Volcano



Many people who value the gifts of shade and beauty that trees add to a landscape unintentionally endanger them. The practice of heaping too much mulch in a mound around the base of a tree, forming a "mulch volcano," harms more than it helps. Tree bark, the trunk's "skin" and first line of defense, needs air and light to thrive. In the dark, moist environment created by mulch, bark begins to rot, leaving the tree vulnerable to insects and diseases. In addition, mulch volcanoes can promote the growth of secondary roots, which can circle around the tree like the roots of a container plant would, eventually choking off the tree's main roots.

Mulch is by no means a bad idea. It provides many benefits, but, like everything else in life, it should be used in moderation. When applied correctly, it protects trees from lawn mower and string trimmer damage, while stabilizing the temperature and moisture level of soil as the weather heats up.

The proper way to mulch around a tree looks more like a doughnut. The ring should be two to four inches deep at most. On soils that drain poorly, like clay, the depth should be limited to two inches. Once the mulch has been applied, pull it five to six inches away from the tree trunk. You should be able to see all of the trunk and the flare of the tree where it meets the ground. The mulch ring should extend to the drip line of the canopy.

<https://www.totallandscapecare.com/business-best-practices/stop-mulch-volcanoes/>



## Staying Cool in the Summer Heat

The scorching summer heat is hard on our bodies. Don't let the temperature get you down, though. When running the AC isn't an option, these tips will help you keep cool even if it feels like the sun is out to get you.

- ❑ Wear clothes made of light, breathable fabrics.
- ❑ Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
- ❑ Limit exposure to direct sunlight. Avoid prolonged exposure between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm, when the sun is most intense.
- ❑ Place ice cubes wrapped in a towel to the pulse points on your wrists and neck to cool down quickly.
- ❑ Limit your physical exertion. Activities requiring a lot of physical effort should be done in the relative cool of the early morning or evening.
- ❑ Wear sunscreen! While it won't cool you off, its protective effect is vital during outdoor summer fun.

Source: Lifehacker (<http://lifehacker.com/5913149/top-10-ways-to-beat-the-heat>)

## Application #4 - July/August Care

Applications 7 & 8 for Silver Plus, Gold Plus and Platinum customers

### Lawn Treatments

#### Weed Control

**All Programs:** Lawns received an application of three herbicides to control broadleaf weeds.

**Silver Plus, Gold Plus, Platinum Program Customers:** In addition to broadleaf weed controls, these three programs include treatment for nutsedge and other grassy weeds.

**Gold customers** also received a FREE Outdoor Pest Control application.

**Platinum customers** also received a fungicide treatment, an application of Outdoor Pest Control and a nutsedge/grassy weed application as needed.

#### **Fescue Notes:**

This time of year, brown patch fungus causes havoc on FESCUE lawns. If you see brown circular patches, call our office to schedule an inspection and quote for a fungicide application.

As temperatures rise, Fescue lawns should be left longer. Your mower should be set at 4½" to 5" or its highest setting. This will help to lower the soil temperature for this cool-season grass.

#### Fertilization

**All Programs:** We applied Arbor-Organics fertilizer, which will provide nourishment to the grass until our next visit.

#### Pest & Disease Control

**Silver Plus, Gold Plus, Platinum Program Customers:** We did a fungicide treatment to prevent brown patch and dollar spot.

**Gold, Gold Plus, Platinum Program Customers:** We applied our Outdoor Pest Control to target fire ants, fleas, ticks, and spiders.

**Mosquito Treatment Add-On:** Customers who have requested this service received one of the six once-a-month treatments.

#### Ornamental Tree and Shrub Treatments

**Gold, Gold Plus and Platinum Program customers:**

Along with an insecticide to help control lace bugs, aphids, caterpillars and Japanese beetles, we applied a miticide to battle spider mites and a fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

#### What You Can Do Until Our Next Visit:

- 1) During summer, all lawns need one inch of water per week from rain or irrigation. If it doesn't rain, check with your local water authority regarding watering regulations. The best watering time is early morning. Do not water in the afternoon or evening.
- 2) Keep an eye out for fungal diseases, Japanese beetles and armyworms.
- 3) Routine mulching will help your shrubs grow better, as it helps retain water in the soil.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm at **770.447.6037**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

## Tips for Summer Lawn Care

Summer can take a toll on turf. Mowing too low, watering too much or too little, or ignoring early signs of problems can leave you with a lackluster lawn, or worse, grass that barely survives the season. Keep your lawn looking great all summer long by following these tips.

**Water properly.** For the healthiest grass, water your lawn deeply before 10 am. Lawns should receive a total of an inch of water each week from rainfall, irrigation or a combination of the two. A simple tool for measuring is a tuna can. When you water, place the can in the area. When the can is full, you've given your lawn an inch of water.

**Clean up after your pooch.** The family dog can cause dead spots on a lawn. Keep waste picked up and dispose of it properly.

**Avoid parking on the grass.** Driving or parking on the lawn is never a good idea. It causes soil compaction, which can lead to a host of other problems, including dead grass.

**Let clippings lie.** If you're mowing grass at the right height, let clippings lie on the lawn. This practice is called grass cycling and saves you time, money and fertilizer.

Source: Bayer Advanced (<https://www.bayeradvanced.com/articles/top-10-summer-lawn-care-tips>)



## Helpful Contact Information

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## Look Out for Summer Lawn Diseases

When the weather warms up, lawn funguses pose a greater risk. If you have dead or brown patches in your lawn, you may be dealing with a fungus. Here are a few to look out for:



**Brown Patch** shows up as symmetrical patches that range in diameter from a few inches to a few feet. Left untreated, the center area of a patch recovers over time, leaving a doughnut-shaped pattern on your lawn.



**Dollar Spot** presents itself as small tan patches that start off the size of a silver dollar (hence the name). As this disease progresses, the patches may merge to form irregular discolored spots several feet in diameter.



**Pythium Blight** first appears as small, sunken circular patches during hot, humid weather and can expand to reach a foot in diameter. Leaves within the patches are orange or dark gray, matted and greasy in appearance. As the disease progresses, the blades of grass shrivel and the patches become light brown.

Early detection and treatment are key to saving your lawn from these threats, so regular inspection is critical to prevent them from spreading. Give us a call if you notice any of these warning signs to discuss treatment options.

Thankfully my oldest son, Lincoln, took up a love of Legos, with a little prompting from dear old Dad! Once his grandparents figured that out, Lincoln started to get plenty of Lego sets that I could “help” him with. Legos are actually good gifts to give – I’m not hinting. They are fairly inexpensive. They help kids with reading, following instructions and to think in three dimensions.

Around mid-2017, while I was browsing one of Lincoln’s Lego catalogs, I saw that Lego was releasing a special “Ideas” series. The thought behind Lego’s “Ideas” series is that regular folks can dream up a great idea for a Lego set and prototype a model. The model is then posted on the Lego website where visitors

can vote for their favorite model and hopefully get it adopted by Lego and officially released. One of these sets was the Saturn V rocket. Wow, was it impressive! **The Saturn V rocket set contained almost 2000 pieces and stood over 3 feet tall!**

The Lego was created by Ole Kirk Christiansen in **1932** as a wooden toy.

Anyways, we have a tradition of stopping at the Lego store when visiting the SugarLoaf Mills Mall for a night out

with the family. After I heard about the Saturn V rocket set, I asked about its availability. Unfortunately, they said that the supply was limited and they didn’t have any in stock. It seems that true Lego aficionados figure out the delivery truck schedule so that they can pounce the moment the truck arrives at the store. It looked like I needed to up my game!

I called other stores and continued to check in occasionally at the mall store but no luck. I even dropped into a toy store in Asheville on a business trip to check on this coveted set. I mentioned the quest I was on and got my hopes up when they said they had one in stock! False alarm – they didn’t. Then towards the end of the year, Dad found one so I wrapped it up for the kids’ Christmas. If you are going to give a Legos set for a gift, here’s something you need to know: Legos have a very distinctive rattle when the box is shaken. So you really need some sort of sound canceling wrapping paper or else the kids may guess what’s inside before tearing off the wrapping paper.

**19 billion** LEGO elements are produced every year

**LEGO Ultimate Collector Series Millennium Falcon** is the largest (and most expensive) set, with **7,541 pieces** and a cost of **\$799.99**

My kids were very excited to open their Saturn V gift on Christmas day, rattle or no rattle. Since there were plenty

of other toys for them to play with, I told them that I was going to build the rocket with them as a joint project. Nice dad, right? I figured I could slow down the construction process a bit and really enjoy the time with them. I managed to buy myself a month and a half and we started the project on February 18. We carefully opened the box and pulled out the first two small bags. I carefully cut each bag open, emptied the contents on the floor, and then set

the bags aside for us to preserve, just in case this set is worth a lot of money later! Three nights later we started another section and watched as our rocket got a little taller!

**Then on February 22nd**, something really exciting came about. I had to go to Huntsville, Alabama, for a business trip and this time, the family came with me. We made it a point to visit the **NASA Space and Rocket Center** in Huntsville. It’s an amazing place – lots of history and education. **But best of all, in one building we got to see a real Saturn V rocket suspended from the ceiling! Looking at it up close, it’s hard to believe that we put people on top of it and shot them to the moon!**

We continued to find time here and there to work on it together throughout February and March. Every evening after completing our sections we would take a picture to mark our progress and post it on Facebook.

The LEGO® block design was patented on **January 28, 1958**. Blocks from that year are still compatible with blocks made today.

**Finally, on April 4th we finished.**

Everyone posed excitedly as Mom snapped a few pictures. For right now, we’ve placed our rocket on the bookcase in the living room. That way, the kids can point it out to visiting family and friends. When I posted the picture on Facebook and included the detail that the set contained 1969 pieces, a friend pointed out the significance of that number. **It had gone right over my head that 1969 was the year the Saturn V rocket took Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin all the way to the moon’s surface.**

