

Ask an Expert

Spring came early. Are you ready?

By Glori Gayster

The phrase “spring has sprung” took on new meaning this year and when looking outside, it’s clear that the warmer winter has put landscaping on a fast track this year. This change in mindset has led those hard-working business people longing for a relaxing paradise at home to wonder if they were so caught off-guard by an early spring that it’s too late.

“The fact that we’re 30 days ahead of schedule has led many to ask some of the most common questions. The biggest concern is ‘did I miss the opportunity to be ready for summer?’” says Mark DelPrato, designer with Young’s Landscape Management in Lumberton. “The good news is no.”

Young’s has been on the cutting edge of the landscape industry for nearly 20 years, providing expert skill in the creation and maintenance of beautiful home exteriors. The company’s high quality craftsmen and professional design team excel in blending the natural environment with man-made hardscapes, accent lighting and water features. To help ease the minds of area homeowners, Young’s answers some of the most common questions being posed today.

What can be done to refresh and revitalize a home’s landscape?

According to DelPrato, getting a home’s exterior in shape begins with refreshing the landscape. A quick fix is one of trimming – a relatively easy step for sustaining nature’s beauty that can make a noticeable difference. DelPrato goes on to say that, “the general rule of thumb is quite simple. Shrubs and plantings that have already bloomed, such as evergreens, should be trimmed. Those that are budding should be left alone.”

However, after hours at the office and weeklong business trips, finding a way to ensure a home’s landscape is full of year-round color begins with proper planning of multi-season plantings. DelPrato explains that the master plan should include a discussion of perennials – some for spring, summer and fall. “Professional landscape designers will guide

homeowners with ideas specific to the home and its style. They are familiar with those plantings that flourish in direct sunlight versus those that prefer a bit more shade.”

When selecting colors, it is important to know there are many different seasonal options – summer annuals, perennial plantings and flowering shrubs. Some of the most popular options these days include salvia, azaleas, impatiens and marigolds. Kousa dogwoods, scarlet sage, day lilies and stella d’orio are growing in popularity and provide great color. “One of our favorite recommendations is the crape myrtle. It blooms in the summer yet its foliage extends beautiful color far into the fall months.”

Is it too late to have a new outdoor living environment for summer?

Unfortunately, work doesn’t take a summer break so having an at-home escape from the daily grind takes on even greater importance – a place to kick back, read a book or entertain family and friends. Yet with the summer season only weeks away, the time is now before it is too late.

“When meeting with clients, we like to set realistic expectations and outline the process,” DelPrato explains. “Although it ultimately depends on the project scope, Memorial Day weekend may be out of reach. July 4th, and mid summer, is clearly possible.”

At Young’s, any landscaping and hardscaping project process begins with an on-site meeting between the clients and a professional landscape designer. It involves a detailed discussion about the goals and details regarding character, trends and lifestyle. “We review homeowners’ likes and dislikes and the motivation behind the project,” he adds.

After the initial meeting, clients are presented with a detailed plan and estimate within a week or two. Once accepted, it may take another one to two weeks to get on the work schedule. “In general, we like to estimate two weeks for completing a new landscape with patio and seating walls,” DelPrato explains. “For projects that include a full outdoor kitchen, three weeks may be required.”

Using these timelines as a guide, it’s clear why time is of the essence to get started.

What are some of the newest trends to enhance existing outdoor living spaces?

The perfect complement to natural plantings is an enhanced outdoor living space with a combination of man-made hardscapes, lights and water features. Home exterior boosts can be big or small – maybe it’s a full-scale outdoor kitchen and dining area or an expanded tiered patio with intimate nooks. The options are limitless and new trends are always on the horizon.

One of these favorites is the warm glow of fire yet with a new twist. Today, the greater accessibility of gas fire pits and flame tables offer a cleaner, easier alternative to the traditional wood options. “For the longest time, such features seemed viable only for larger spaces. However, that is no longer the case,” DelPrato explains. “Through the use of good design, homes with a small exterior can highlight beautiful elevated fire bowls which come in a variety of geometric shapes and sizes.”

At Young’s, its line of artistic outdoor lighting has also expanded to include a newly enhanced, multi-faceted tiki torch. Well-known for the bug repellent benefits of traditional citronella oil, these aesthetically popular lights create unequalled ambiance. Young’s tikis offer the addition of an energy-efficient LED bulb. “This combination provides a tiki torch and downlight all in one unit – an ideal fit well within all environments for nighttime outdoor entertainment.”

After years of cold winters with much ice and snow, homeowners can enjoy the early spring and look forward to even more time spent outside.

Young’s Landscape Management
With locations in Moorestown and Lumberton, Young’s professional team regularly offers consultations at clients’ homes and businesses throughout South Jersey. For more information or to take the first step in the planning process, call (609) 657-5711 or visit YoungsLandscape.com.

SO MANY REASONS TO SWITCH

OPEN 7 DAYS
EARLY & LATE

OPEN 361 DAYS

Absolutely
FREE BUSINESS CHECKING*

LOANS & LINES OF CREDIT

CASH MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

ONLINE BANKING WITH BILL PAY

DEPOSIT BY 6PM
AVAILABLE NEXT BANKING DAY

Locally Headquartered

Pennsylvania: Abington • Ardmore • Center City • Mayfair • Media • Plymouth Meeting • Torresdale
New Jersey: Haddonfield • Voorhees

REPUBLIC
BANK

myrepublicbank.com

888.875.2265



*Up to 600 checks/deposited items monthly for this account.