Top Ten List – August

1. The battle with earwigs is in full swing now. **Sluggo Plus** is an organic bait that can be used to control them. If your plants are getting chewed alive, use Sluggo Plus and **traps** as well. A simple homemade trap consists of setting out empty tuna cans and filling them with soy sauce, beer, or kool-aid. The earwigs will climb in for the liquids and drown. Root weevils can attack lilac leaves this time of year, keep them under control with **Bonide Eight Insect Control Granules**.

2. Test your pond water every month through the summer with **Microbe-lift 5 in 1 Test Strips**, closely monitoring the alkalinity and pH. Rising temperatures cause high amount of evaporation. Carefully add **Pondcare pH Down** so as not to shock the fish in a rapid adjustment period. Fertilize water lilies every month with **Jobe's Organic Fertilizer Spikes**. Reduce string algae by using a larger pump to move more water.

3. Apply **Casoron** now to control fall weedy grasses, if you have not used **Casoron** twice before.

4. Boxelder bugs (black with an orange X on the back) love to eat the seeds of boxelders, silver maples, and other maples. These pests can be controlled now by spraying with **Sevin**. Use **Florel** in the spring when trees are blooming, to prevent seed production.

5. Fertilize the lawn after the 15th, using **Sustane All-Natural Fertilizer** or **Master Nursery Master Green Lawn Food**. Fertilize the garden again too!

6. Continue hosing down all your needled evergreens with a strong stream of water to help control spider mites. Remember, not all insecticides are miticides. Check your labels carefully to make sure mites are listed before treating for spider mites. **Neem Oil** is a good all-purpose insecticide, miticide, and fungicide, and it's organic too!

7. **Divide** and replant any **iris** beds that are older than 3-5 years. Bare root iris are in stock now. Come discover more varieties to add to your garden.

8. Voles can damage your lawn and the root systems of your trees and shrubs. Apply **Kaput** now to keep the vole damage to a minimum.

9. **Do not** try to spray any big weeds in dry areas at this time because they will not absorb much herbicide. Actively growing weeds in the spring and early summer are easiest to control. Chop them down or better yet, pull them before the flowers mature to prevent even more next year.

10. Plant **cool season vegetables** starting at the end of the month for fall harvesting.