

# Mapledale Cuttings

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

## Mapledale Bulk Is Going Green

Mapledale has implemented the following practices and we are always looking for more ways to help preserve the environment and be good stewards.

We have been recycling green waste for 26 years. A few years back we registered with the E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency) for a compost license to help stop adding green waste to the landfills. We now accept green waste, grind it, windrow (put into rows) and then stack it all in a finish pile for curing. This process takes about 6-8 months before it is ready for use. You can blend this with soil or use it as mulch. This mulch helps to add nutrition back into the soil. Uses for this product range from home owners to nursery and fruit growers.

Another product our company recycles is horse manure. Did you know there are more horses per capita in Geauga County than any other county in the state of Ohio? Ohio also ranks third in the United States for the state with the most horses. Because of this, there has been a major concern of manure run-off from horse farms, both big and small, in our area. About three years ago we partnered with *Recycle Tech* to compost manure. Our finished product is great for farms, nurseries, vegetable gardens and to amend soil. We use this compost on our fields to increase yield and with the cost of fertilizer increasing daily we are trying to lower our cost too. This is a Class 3 compost license under the E.P.A. We have consulted

with O.S.U. in Wooster to bring you the best product.

We also recycle wood waste to keep it out of landfills and create a useable product. It is ground waste blended with their wood, i.e. slab wood, then ground again and then dyed with a water based E.P.A. approved organic colorant to create a mulch that holds color and is better for the environment.



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**LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Don't miss the *Rhododendron Festival at the Holden Arboretum (held the whole month of June).*
- Spend some time at the *Little Mountain Heritage Festival on July 26-27 (held at the Lake County History and Heritage Center).*
- Visit the *Nature Arts Festival in the West Woods (Gauga Park District) on August 2-3.*
- Don't miss the *Great Geauga County Fair on August 28- September 1.*



Don't forget the Mapledale accepts cash, checks and the following credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

## Mapledale's Ground's Maintenance Is Going Green

Our Ground's Maintenance Crews are using the most environmentally friendly equipment available, such as clean burn 4 strokes, C.A.R.B. compliant string trimmers, blowers, etc. Our riding mowers are diesel powered that run on ultra low sulfur diesel. The oil we use for 2 stroke string trimmers, blowers, etc., is a synthetic smokeless oil. Even the grease we use is soap based and water soluble.

We are also in the process of implementing the use of alternative fuel. The alternative fuel system that we are engaged in is a 87% vegetable oil base that will reduce emissions considerably and our diesel equipment will use approximately 30% less fuel overall.

All of our waste oil, i.e. motor oil, is recy-

clered. Most of the oil recycled is used to heat our shop in our waste oil furnace.

Mapledale does not bag grass from lawn mowing, unless a bagger is needed for safety reasons. We do this because the grass clippings act as a natural fertilizer for your lawn. The grass clippings will break down and go back into the soil.

We do collect leaves off our jobs and accept leaves from other contractors. We also except leaves from the City of Chardon. This has worked really well by giving them a place to dump leaves that we then grind and use for our leaf humus for perennial and annual flower beds. A few of the local park systems actually prefer this product.



## Mapledale's Design Install Is Going Green

You may not think of the ecology when you are planning your landscape but the following are some recommendations.

Planting a mix of evergreen and deciduous plants around your foundation can help reduce heat loss in the winter and help cool your home in the summer. Planting a nice shade tree on the south and southwest side of your home will help reduce the direct sunlight on your house, like when you sit under a shade tree on a hot summer day and it feels cool and relaxing. If you have irrigation then remember to water in the early

morning hours so the water has a chance to soak in. If you water between 10 am - 6 pm most of the water will evaporate and this is wasteful.

For a patio or deck you must choose your material wisely. A composite wood for a deck could be made out of recycled wood blended with discarded plastics. With this product you would not need to use harmful chemical cleaners and sealers and this would be better for the environment.

If you decide to use pavers they are pretty much maintenance free. Most

cleaners and sealers are environmentally friendly. Do you want outdoor lighting? Many manufacturers make low voltage lighting. This could be used instead of high wattage halogen lighting. Your porch lights or lights at your doors could be florescent. A 60 watt incandescent bulb uses 60 watts while a 60 watt florescent could use as little as 7 watts.

Check out these websites for more information: [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com) and [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com)



## Energy Savers

The following are some things you can do to save energy and reduce waste that is being put into our environment.

### Kitchen Energy Savers:

- Make sure the door seals on your refrigerator are airtight and move your fridge away from the dishwasher, stove and any heat vents.
- Run your dishwasher when it is full (but not overloaded).
- Use pots and pans that fit the size of your stove burners. Use lids so that you can cook at a lower temperature.
- Don't fill your washing machine with just a few items.
- Make sure to clean your dryer lint filter before each load.
- Set your water heater at 120 degrees. Some thermostats are preset to 140 degrees.

### General Home Energy Savers:

- Look for the NFRC label (National Fenestration Rating Council), an independent rating system for the energy performance of windows, doors and skylights.
- Look for windows made of low emissivity (low-E). It has a special thin coating that lets in light, but reduces heat transfer.
- Landscaping is a natural way to shade your home. Well-placed trees and shrubs save on air conditioning costs.
- Clean the filters on your air conditioner once a month, replace them as necessary and shade them from direct sun to reduce their workload.
- Change from incandescent to fluorescent lighting.
- Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
- Use curtains or blinds to keep the direct sunlight out of that room in the summer and it will lower the temperature of that room.
- Doors must be in good working condition. Check the "R Value" on the door and check the gaskets.

### Utility Room Energy Savers:

- Schedule annual tune-ups for your central air conditioner, heat pump and furnace.
- Seal and insulate leaky ducts.
- Seal flues in the fireplaces you do not use, install drapes or coverings on your windows and seal any holes around your plumbing and heating pipes.
- Check caulking and weather-stripping.
- If you have a crawl space under your house then close any foundation vents in the winter and open them in the summer.
- Install ceiling fans. Consider a 'whole-house fan.' In the summer, it circulates cool air through the house and vents warm air through the attic.
- Install a computerized thermostat that will automatically lower the temperature inside your home at night or when you are at work.

### Garage Energy Savers:

- Use the octane level your car's manufacturer recommends.
- Maintain your vehicle - keep it tuned, check your tires and change the oil and filters regularly.
- Observe the posted speed limits and avoid quick starts and stops.
- Beware of 'gas saving' gadgets that claim to boost mileage.
- Consider Alternative Fuel Vehicles if you are in the market for a new car.
- Consider walking, bicycling or public transportation whenever you can.

## Maple Dale's Snow & Ice Is Going Green

The ice melter that we use is not as corrosive to hard surfaces. It is made of more natural products so this would help reduce the impact on the environment and is not as apt to bind in the soil.

Salt brine is something new we are starting to use. We are adding an agricultural based chemical to help reduce the amount needed and the use of brine

will reduce the overall amount of salt that is being spread. In turn, this will have a direct effect on the environment.

Fuel is also a carry over from the rest of our business. We are using an 87% vegetable based fuel for our diesel.



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*“Our word is our word!”*

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.mapledale.org](http://www.mapledale.org)**

## New Website!

Mapledale's website is up and running ([www.mapledale.org](http://www.mapledale.org)). Our website contains almost everything you would like to know about us, along with many informative links. We have all our email addresses listed, historical information about how Mapledale got started and we even provide the local forecast. We also

have added several new features that we think you will enjoy, so come take a look at what we have added!

New for Summer 2008 is our online store! There you can purchase your bulk materials and landscape supplies online and have them delivered right to your door. You can buy your materials

and set your delivery time anytime of the day or night; no need to call in to place your order. Using the store is as easy as any other online store, so try it out! Access to the store is available by going to [www.mapledaleonline.com](http://www.mapledaleonline.com) or from our website at [www.mapledale.org](http://www.mapledale.org).

