

# GSU INC. MAY NEWSLETTER

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**GREEN SIDE UP INC.**

## INTRODUCTION

In our first newsletter I would like to talk about what is going on with Green Side Up. We are currently busy with several landscape projects; some are using retaining wall blocks while others are just requiring plants and mulch. The mowing crew is finding out just how fast grass can grow. May weather has not been very cooperative. Spring fertilizing and weed control is in full swing. 2007 has brought many weeds earlier than in past years.

Gas prices are continuing to increase causing us to review the way we do things in an effort to keep ourselves as efficient as possible. Green Side Up will need to apply a fuel surcharge

on all types of work if prices don't stabilize soon. Quantities of plants available are very good this year. We regularly use several nurseries in northern Indiana who grow their own material giving a better survival rate when planted in landscapes since plants are used to our climates.

On a positive note, as you all know by now, Green Side Up Inc. now has real estate on the internet. We are hoping this website will better promote Green Side Up and attract new customers and work.



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## SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Safety should be everyone's first priority. At Green Side Up we have joined our national organization's safety program - Stars Safe Company Program. The organization is sponsored by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET). It is our intention to meet or exceed national averages on worker injuries and or vehicle accidents. One of the requirements for our staff is the use of ear plugs and safety glasses when on the job site working. At Green Side Up Inc. we take safety very seriously.



## SPOTLIGHT ON PLANTS

This time of year we are always looking for plants that have nice flower blossoms or have a nice fragrance. One such series of plants are ornamental Crabapple trees. There are roughly 125 major varieties available for our climate region (number 4). Crabapple trees will have white, pink, or red blossoms. A few varieties have double flowering blossoms, (carnation flowers) and are quite attractive but not always as resistant as others. Many crabs are resistant to most diseases, ex. Blights, black spot, molds, and mildews. Many crabapples prior to 20 years ago always had problems with diseases. Thru hybridizing and new plant research at many of the Universities around the country they have come out with these new species. My favorites are Prairie Fire, Candy apple, red Jewel, Profusion, and Donald Wyman.

