

NORTHERN NEVADA



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SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013 • RGJ.COM/LIVING

MASTER GARDENER

Keep your lawn green, kids safe

By Susan Donaldson
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

It's that time of year. Warm temperatures, increasing day length and water will help your lawn break dormancy and turn green. All around town, irrigation systems are being cranked up to water lawns and landscapes.

Many people choose this time to apply weed-and-feed-type products. Sometimes, we don't even think about what's in the bag. These combination products include lawn food (fertilizer) along with weed killers (herbicides). While using combo products sounds like a fast and easy solution, they may not be best for your yard and family.

Many weed-and-feed-type products contain a mix of three common herbicides: 2,4-D, dicamba and mecoprop. These ingredients kill broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions, but do not harm the grass.

After application, however, what happens to them? When tracked inside on shoes, clothing or pets, some ingredients in weed-and-feed-type products can wind up in carpets and on surfaces. Once indoors, the weed killers break down very slowly and can contaminate the indoor air.

Several published research studies reported measurable levels of 2,4-D in various parts of homes occupied by children, including surfaces, carpet dust and air.

In a report published in Environmental Health Perspectives in 2001 (M.G. Nishioka, et al.), researchers found that after lawn application, 2,4-D was detected in indoor air and on surfaces throughout the 11 homes studied, tracked in by dogs and the person doing the application.

A study published in 2008 in the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology measured exposures of young children and their adult caregivers. They found that 2,4-D was detected in 83 percent of North Carolina homes carpet dust samples and 98 percent of Ohio homes out of 135 homes studied (M.K. Morgan et al.).

Why is this a concern? Children are most likely to be exposed following application of 2,4-D in residential lawn care products.

The brains, immune systems and bodies of young children are developing rapidly. Pesticide residues have been measured in blood and urine of exposed children, and may affect their development.

What can you do? First, use these products very strategically, and only when needed.

If your lawn is very weedy, it doesn't need a fertilizer, it needs a management program to alleviate the stresses that led to weed infestation. Common issues include uneven watering, compacted soils and mowing too short (scalping).

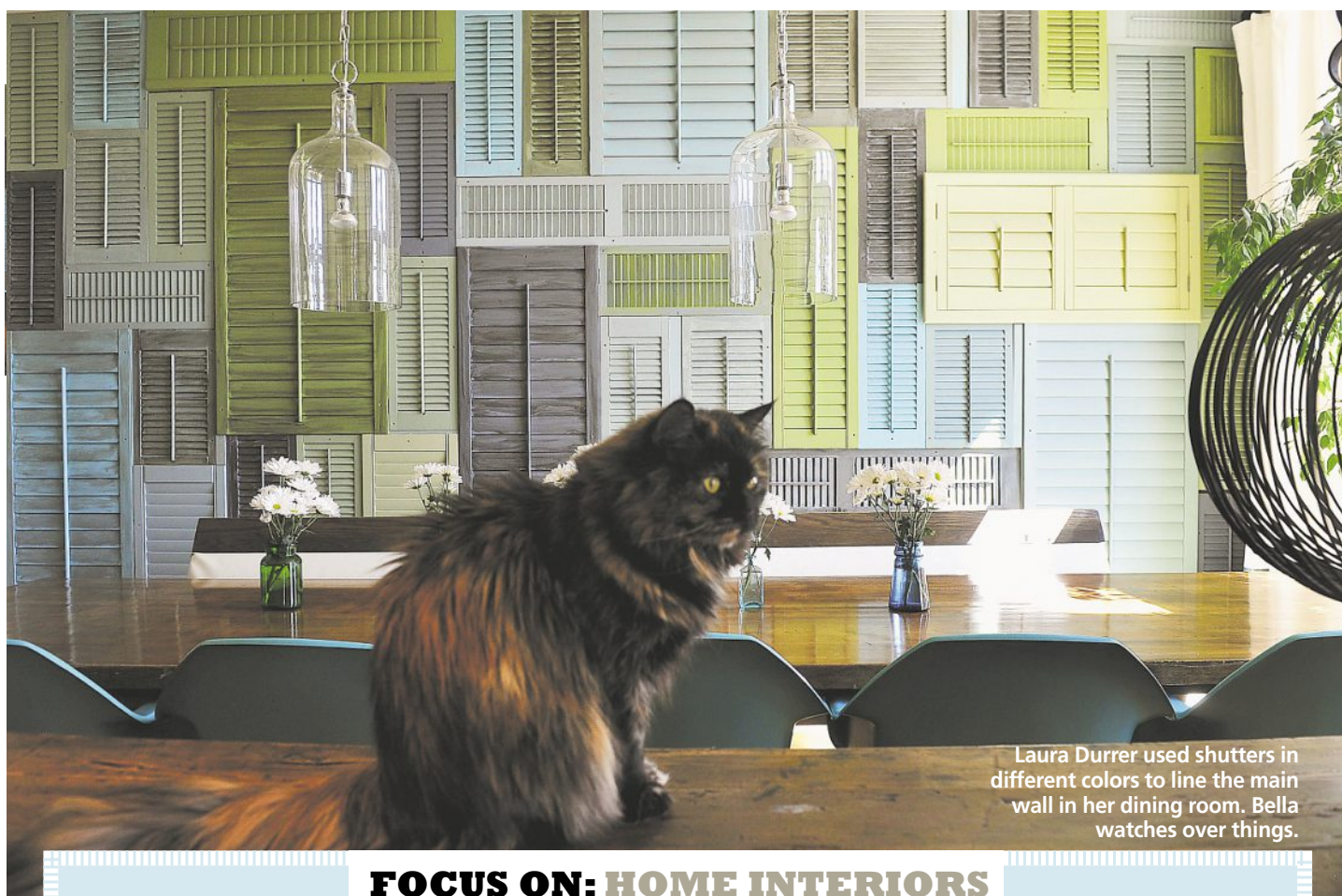
If your lawn is due for a fertilizer application, it may not need a weed killer, too. Fertilization may be enough to strengthen your lawn to compete with weeds.

If your lawn is in pretty

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Laura Durrer used shutters in different colors to line the main wall in her dining room. Bella watches over things.

FOCUS ON: HOME INTERIORS

A STUDY IN COLOR

Lifestyle blogger upcycles to create masterpieces for her home

By Laura Longero | llongero@rgj.com

This is the fourth in a series of 10 stories about beautiful home interiors in the Reno area.

You could call Laura Durrer a Renaissance woman. Her south Reno home is filled with her creations — the paintings on the wall are hers, furniture has been refinished, her children's bedrooms tailored to each's personality. Durrer chronicles her projects on her blog, oliveandlove.com.

Durrer and her husband, Dan, have lived in the 4,600-square-foot home for six years. It has five bedrooms and five bathrooms, plus an office that is used as Laura Durrer's studio. They have three children, Riley, 9, Zoeyanne, 7, and Thaniel, 4.

The house is a study in color and is filled with whimsical touches. Upon entering, the formal dining room is to the right, separated from the entryway by two windowpanes hung from the ceiling.

The dining room features a shutter wall — the entire back wall is covered in shutters of various size and shape and painted in greens and blues. It was featured in the April 2012 issue of Country Living magazine. A long table has room for many, and Durrer recovered an old

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Laura and Dan Durrer's master bathroom. PHOTOS BY TIM DUNN/RGJ

LOOKBOOK

Laura Durrer shops at Red Chair, the Nest, YaYa's Restoration, Mill End Fabric, Habitat for Humanity, Craigslist and at thrift stores.

ON RGJ.COM

Click on this story on RGJ.com for a photo gallery. Go to RGJ.com/interiors to see a map of this and previous stories:

- » Sean Gamble's Nevada film posters
- » Aaryn Walker's midcentury modern style
- » Paolo Cividino's modern classic

3 HOME & GARDEN EVENTS THIS WEEK

ANNUAL ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Join city of Reno Horticulturist Dianne Stortz-Lintz and Reno Rose Society Rosarians who will provide hands-on-instruction on proper rose care, seasonal growth information and pruning during the Annual Rose Pruning Demonstration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the city of Reno Municipal Rose Garden at Idlewild Park, 1900 Idlewild Drive. Pruner sharpening will be available to the first 20 participants.

Details: Dianne at 775-657-4616 or stortz-lintzd@reno.gov.

SPRING LAWN BASICS

Moana Nursery is holding a Spring Lawn Basics workshop at 10 a.m. today at the nursery's Landscape and Design Center, 1190 W. Moana Lane.

Thomas Chaplin of Dr. Earth will share some simple steps to ensure your lawn will be its very best this year — from animal and winter dam-

age repair to feeding, weed control, mowing and watering practices. He'll also discuss other low-maintenance, living alternatives to turf grass. The free seminar begins promptly at 10 a.m. and lasts an hour. Please arrive 15 minutes early, as seating is limited to 60 and is first come, first served.

Details: www.moanannursery.com or 775-825-0600.

SPRING TUNE-UP FOR SPRINKLER AND DRIP SYSTEMS

Greenhouse Garden Center in Carson City is holding a Spring Tune-up for Sprinkler and Drip Systems workshop at 10 a.m. today at the nursery, 2450 S. Curry St.

With the rising cost of water it is becoming increasingly important that your irrigation system is in the very best operating condition possible. Right now is the time to check your irrigation system out and get it up and running in preparation for the long, hot days ahead.

David, Ruf, owner, Greenhouse Garden Center, will be holding the seminar. Reservations are not required and the class is free.

Details: 775-882-8600.



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GREEN COLLEGE SEMINAR: ALL NEW SQUARE FOOT GARDENING

In-store Event
11am and 1pm on April 6th.

Presented by: Pawl Hollis and Randy Robison. Originally developed by Mel Bartholomew, Square Foot Gardening is the most efficient and successful way to grow vegetables in almost any environment. Learn how fun it can be to grow your own vegetables with minimal effort and cost.
Please RSVP by calling 775-355-1551.

1720 Brierley Way, Sparks | 775.355.1551
RailCityGardenCenter.com

RL-000438786

Interiors

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church pew in vinyl to create a bench. To the left of the entryway, pale blue chairs are cut in half vertically and are installed on one wall as makeshift plant holders.

The formal living room is painted in a pale blue, and a white fireplace occupies the center of one wall. Large windows allow light to pour into the room, and they are dressed with flame-and-white curtains in a swirly pattern, which add pops of color. Chocolate leather chairs face a long, gray leather couch, and an olive chair stands nearby. A rug is patterned with flowers and throw pillows add more color — greens, oranges and blues. Durrer cut the legs off of a coffee table and added a cushion in vivid white, green and blue to the top to create an ottoman. A map of Tahoe was cut into nine equal pieces and framed, and occupies a curved corner of the wall that would be hard to decorate.

The kitchen is spacious and airy with wood floors and a black-and-white color scheme. The cabinets and drawers are painted a snowy hue, the countertops are black and the backsplash looks like shiny white brick. An island in the center houses a double sink and bar-stool seating. Upside-down lamps hang from the ceiling.

The formal dining room off the kitchen is built in a circle, and the walls are painted a pale green. A round table occupies the space.

The family living space features pale yellow walls and an olive-colored ceiling. A large gray sectional, which Durrer tells me can be taken apart and moved into various configurations, offers ample seating and faces picture windows with a view of Mount Rose and a TV, inconspicuously placed. Black-and-white and green throw pillows are here and there, a piano stands in a corner and a small green table, recently refinished, sits behind the couch.

Durrer's children's rooms are youthful and tailored to each child. Oldest son Riley's room features a queen-sized sleigh bed painted a vibrant green (this took 30 hours, Durrer told me) with pale blue walls and a loft inside his closet — business at the bottom and party on the top.

Daughter Zoeyanne's room features a white wrought-iron bed with white mosquito netting hung above it and a curtain to her closet made from old skirts in pinks, blues, greens, and tan. The walls are done in pale green stripes and the ceiling, pink — a room Strawberry Shortcake would love.

Youngest son Thaniel's room has a jungle theme with blue walls and a monkey peeping out behind giant leaves painted on and coming out of the corner above the twin-sized bed. The hallway between their rooms is covered with their artwork, and each child has his or her own section of the gallery.

The guest bedroom features bed with floral black-and-white bedding and white shutters above the bed. A yellow door, yellow lamp with white



Laura Durrer works in her studio with 4-year-old son, Thaniel. PHOTOS BY TIM DUNN/RGJ

shade and pot of sunflowers provide splashes of color. Durrer's studio is where she does some of her projects and has a huge desk where her computer occupies a spot. An old card catalog from UNR is one of Durrer's favorite pieces, and she uses it to store art supplies.

The master suite is spacious and elegant and is done in shades of white and olive. A huge white canopy falls from the ceiling at the corners of the bed, which is done in white and green. Olive window panels hang on tree branches instead of curtain rods. Yes, branches.

The master bath is black-and-white with pops of green. The tile is the classic black-and-white penny tile variety, which was modeled after the tile in the house Durrer grew up in in Los Angeles. An old ladder hangs horizontally above the bathtub, and plants hang from the ladder. A reclaimed wood board holds the hooks for the shower curtain. A green

chair sits in one corner, and black-and-white family photographs line the walls.

Everything has a story

Durrer describes her style as eclectic, and said she likes monochromatic rooms.

"Slowly, they're expanding in their colors," she said.

She finds items at thrift stores and on Craigslist, and said she adds pieces to rooms one at a time — they just come to her. She upcycles and reinvents items, refinishes and reupholsters.

She said if she really likes something, she will just buy it and then see where it goes.

"You have to have an imagination when you look at a piece," she said. "Pretty much everything you see in this house has a story to it."

She said when picking out furniture, people should stay away from just picking things out of catalogs. Her favorite

pieces are the card catalog in her studio and the table that the TV sits on in the living room.

"I like the pieces that have just shown up," she said. "I wasn't looking for them."

To nominate a home for this series, please email photos, contact information and a brief description of the home's interior to RGJ Home & Garden writer Laura Longero at llongero@rgj.com.

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Laura and Dan Durrer's master bedroom. Tree limbs are used as rods for the window coverings.



Zoeyann Durrer, 7, sits in her bedroom.

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