

## Top Plants that Shaped the World



**Black pepper** - demand for this flavoring set in motion the great voyages of discovery.

**Sugarcane** - Its sweetness began a shameful trade in human beings and the plantation systems of agriculture.

**Corn** - The world's third largest plant food source, behind wheat and rice, corn is now an all-too-common ingredient in human and animal food products.

**Rubber** - Its special properties forever changed the face of transportation, industry, and everyday life (even though synthetics are now in wide use).

**Cotton** - Native to both Asia and the Americas, its seedpods yield a fiber that has clothed the entire world.

**Potato** - This versatile, nutritious food plant originated in the Americas, but beguiled the Irish; widespread blight led to mass starvation and flight - and emigration to America.

**Cacao** - Source of chocolate, from genus Theobroma, "food of the gods" - need we say more?

**Coffee** - Roasted beans yield a beverage long at the center of urban social life, from the London coffeehouses of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the Paris cafes of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the Starbucks of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Excerpt from Flora Mirabilis: How Plants Have Shaped World Knowledge, Health, Wealth, and Beauty (National Geographic) and Catherine Howell*

## WHY MULCH?

Mulching trees, shrubs, and other plants in your landscape is very beneficial. It insulates the soil from temperature swings, reduces weeds and feeds the soil ecosystem as it breaks down. But one of its greatest powers is to prevent water in the soil from evaporating under the hot sun.

Usually two or three inches of mulch are all you need to get functional coverage. More than that will waste dollars, repel water, invite unwanted insects and encourage decay of tree trunks. Mulch needs to be replaced annually.

Give us a call when you want to schedule mulching.

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**610-796-2578**

## IT'S SCARY WHEN YOUR LAWN TURNS INTO A JUNGLE

When that happens, your only solution is in...

### Proper Turf Management

If there are more weeds on your property than acceptable, Whitehouse Landscaping can provide you with the expertise to make it the lush, rich lawn that you'd like to enjoy. We are licensed and certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture. Since we are professionals, you can trust us to give you the best in individualized care for your lawn.

## BAPTISIA:

### PLANT OF THE YEAR

The Perennial Plant Association just recently made Baptisia the 2010 Plant of the Year. It's a great native perennial and a great "bread and butter" component plant for a mixed border. It likes full sun but can grow in partial shade. It requires very little babying, will self-sow, and provides nectar for butterflies. The plants chosen as Perennials Plant of the Year are tough and dependable.



#### 2009 Plant of the Year

Hakonechloa macra "Aureola" is a long-season, vivid ornamental grass that is one of the few grasses that likes partial shade.

#### 2008 Plant of the Year

Geranium 'Roxanne' is a long-season, flowering violet-blue geranium and works well for a mass planting or patio container.

*Picture was provided courtesy of Steven Still.*

## ELIMINATE WEEDS

Sometimes chemical herbicides can be an effective control in the landscape bed. Preemergence herbicides prevent the germination and emergence of some weeds. They must be applied before weed growth starts, or areas must be weeded to remove existing weeds before applying preemergence herbicides. Postemergence herbicides are effective in controlling existing weeds that are actively growing.

Let us know if you would like this application.