



**For Immediate Release
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**GARDENING EXPERT MELINDA MYERS USES NEW WEBSITE TO
INFORM GARDENERS OF BREAKING NEWS**
MULCH CONCERNS HOAX IS THE FIRST ALERT

Milwaukee, Wis. – March 8, 2006 – Milwaukee-based horticultural expert and author Melinda Myers is using her website as a vehicle to inform gardeners of breaking news. Myers will post breaking news related to the gardening industry on her website and send email alerts to her “Growing Among Friends” garden club members – a garden club people can join on Myers’ website – www.melindamyers.com.

The first news came this week and involved misinformation being circulated via the internet concerning the effects of Hurricane Katrina on mulch. “Many of people have received e-mails concerning termite infested mulch from the clean up efforts of Hurricane Katrina,” explained Myers. “This appears to be an e-mail hoax creating concern for many.”

“Several Professional organizations and Universities across the country have been investigating the rumors and trying to debunk this hoax,” said Myers. More detailed information from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry can be found at <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/aboutldaf/presscenter/pressreleases/pressrelease.asp?id=542>, and from the Mulch and Soil Council at <http://www.mulchandsoilcouncil.org/Inforesorce/Pressrelease.html>.

Myers, best known for her practical, gardener-friendly approach to gardening, has more than 25 years of horticultural experience in both hands-on and instructional settings. She has a master's degree in horticulture, is a certified arborist, and is a horticulture instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College. Outside the classroom, Melinda shares her expertise through a variety of media outlets. She has written numerous books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, which was released nationwide in January 2006, and the *Birds and Blooms Ultimate Garden Guide*. She hosts "Great Lakes Gardener," seen on PBS stations throughout the United States, and appears regularly as a guest expert on various national and local television and radio shows. Myers also writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" column for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and is a contributing editor and columnist for *Birds and Blooms* and *Backyard Living* magazines. For her work, community service and media presence, Melinda has received recognition and numerous awards, including the 2003 Garden Globe Award for radio talent and the Quill and Trowel Award for her television work, both from the Garden Writers Association. She has also received the Garden Communicator's Award from the American Nursery and Landscape Association, as well as the 2005 Honorary Life Membership Award from the Wisconsin Arborist Association. For more information, visit www.melindamyers.com.

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