

# Tips for Seasonal Tree & Shrub Care

## SPRING PLANTING, TRIMMING AND FERTILIZING

- In March, start pruning to thin out old, overgrown shrubs. Consider deep root fertilizer and start treating for chewing insects.
- Schedule repair work or trimming for trees damaged by winter snows.
- Plant new trees around April. Take care to select the proper location and choose a tree that meets the site requirements of the location you're placing it in. Is the soil dry or sandy? How is drainage? How much sun or shade does the location get? Choosing the right location will affect your success rate and your tree's health.
- For even better results, purchase native species that are accustomed to the regional climate.
- One of the most common problems with planting is putting plants too deep, which can stress the tree and suffocate the roots. Be sure that the top of the root collar is even or just above the soil. Do not over mulch.

## WINTER TREE CARE TIPS

- Evaluate trees for weaknesses that can be susceptible to winter weather.
- Have a "no cost" inspection of your landscape by one of our Certified Arborists which is effective in the winter as well as the growing season.
- Remove fallen leaves from beneath disease susceptible trees and shrubs, (dogwoods, crabapples)
- Prune disease infected limbs when dormant, eliminating further infection, sterilize pruning tools regardless between pruning cuts (fire blight, Dutch elm disease).
- Contain heavy ends on limbs too long to support snow and ice loads. Protect plants susceptible to winter injury with anti-desiccants or cover with a breathable burlap type material.
- Install temporary or permanent rope, cable or twine in plants (multi-stem) susceptible to snow and ice loads (do not forget to remove temporary support in the spring).
- Prune, contain or rejuvenate high profile, overgrown plants in late winter so plants will recover quickly in spring with new growth. This will also minimize the negative aesthetic issues that can be associated with rejuvenating plants.
- Consider working on trees with limited access during the growing season to save time and money.
- Plan your landscape needs before the spring "rush" insuring the best service and the best plant material if you will be installing plants.
- Check Deer susceptible plants for evidence of grazing. Thinning of plants foliage 5 ft and below (deer head height) or droppings near preferred plants. Treat with materials that effect plants taste.

## TRIMMING TREES IN FALL PREPARES THEM FOR WINTER

- Heavy wet snow and freezing ice storms can weigh down tree branches and limbs causing them to weaken or break.
- Preventive pruning and trimming in the fall can lower the risk of catastrophic damage when the next winter snow or ice storm hits.
- A skilled arborist can lighten and reduce the length of heavy branches, remove hazardous deadwood and cable or brace weak crotches to prepare your trees for winter weather

## **INSECT CONTROL AND TREE HEALTH PROBLEMS**

- April is a good time to schedule chemical tree treatments for winter moth and other plant damaging insects.
- Moisture is necessary for most plant and tree diseases to thrive. Target watering to turf and bed surfaces. Avoid wetting of foliage.
- Air movement and light penetration favor plant health and reduces pest problems. Conditions can be improved through proper plant spacing at planting and good pruning and trimming practices.
- Good sanitation reduces the source and habitat of insects and diseases and helps control outbreaks. Removal of leaves and debris beneath plants with known problems is beneficial. Heavy deposits of leaves on turf or groundcovers over the winter will cause damage.
- Vigorous, healthy plants with good reserves can fight off pests and resist environmental stress much better than those in a weakened condition.

### **Here are some of the basics:**

- Select good quality stock for planting and follow proper planting guidelines
- Establish good watering practices. Too much is as bad as not enough. Watering should be slow, infrequent and deep.
- Compacted soils should be aerated to improve air exchange for roots
- Use good quality organic mulch. Total depth should not exceed 3"®
- Periodic maintenance fertilization gives plants the building blocks for food making and building reserves.
- Prune and trim woody plants according to their needs and habit; for health, longevity and a pleasing look.
- Insect and disease problems or other symptoms of decline should be evaluated and treated by a certified arborist who can provide proper diagnosis and restore tree health.

## **DEER REPELLANT TREATMENTS PROTECT TREES & SHRUBS**

- Deer commonly feed on the bark and greens of certain plants for nutrition in the winter. Deer repellent treatments can protect your ornamental evergreen shrubs and young trees from being eaten during cold winters when food supplies are scarce for deer.
- Ideally, repellents are applied year round to account for weathering and new growth. In practice, though, deer turn to ornamental shrubs only after other foods are exhausted; November to April is when the greatest damage to shrubs and trees can occur
- Shrub & Tree Treatments: We use a repellent formulation to treat trees and shrubs, which has proven safe, long-lasting and effective.

## **TREE & SHRUB FERTILIZER**

- Fall fertilization is beneficial for promoting root growth rather than leaf growth. It enables the trees to store up reserves and be ready for healthy growth the following spring.
- Installing a layer of mulch around the root zones of each tree help control temperature extremes and minimize moisture loss. Be sure to leave space between the tree trunk and mulch.