



# WINTER

## UNTIL NEXT YEAR...

It's hard to believe that winter is really here! It's been great working with you this year, and we hope you've been satisfied with our services. Your business means a great deal to us, and we're always working hard (and looking for new ways) to keep you happy with us.

While the garden gets a needed rest through these cooler months, there are some services we're still performing, but outdoor work has slowed down. Meanwhile in our offices, we'll be busy. We use this time for training to get licenses and certifications renewed and upgraded. This process allows us to present the most capable and competent crews on your property. We're also overhauling all of our equipment so it can perform at its peak during the season.

We want you to be pleased with your program, and we invite you to call us anytime to discuss your needs in detail. We thank you for your confidence in us, and we look forward to working with you again. Have a great winter!



## Bringing Color to the Winter Landscape

With a little planning and planting, your landscape can be bright and beautiful even in winter. The key is to add year around interest by including multiple shapes, colors and textures.

Pyracantha is an especially good addition to the winter landscape. Pyracantha, or firethorn, is one shrub which above all others commands attention. For striking effects it has no equal, yet is hardly used enough. Easy to grow, when once established in suitable locations, it lives for years, increasing in size and loveliness and requiring only an occasional trimming.

The name pyracantha is derived from two Greek words, "pyr," fire, and "akanthos," thorn. Anyone who has seen an outstanding specimen in September or October, with its shiny branches literally covered with handsome flame-colored berries in great clusters, will agree that it is well named.

As an individual shrub, be sure it is placed where it has sufficient space to develop properly, and pyracantha will be spectacular. It also makes a splendid showing when three or four are planted in a group about six feet apart, so that they develop ultimately into a huge clump. It looks equally good when planted close to buildings or when used in the foreground of a massed planting of tall conifers. And when carefully trained over a doorway, it creates a unique and handsome effect. It also forms an interesting pattern when espaliered against a wall. Its shiny, dark green leaves, varying in size, add considerable charm.

Whenever possible, the plants should be placed in a protected situation where they will not be unduly exposed to winter winds. Such protection can sometimes be supplied by buildings or by screen plantings of tall evergreens. The proper setting determines the effectiveness of pyracantha, and this should be given careful thought before planting.

Don't stop enjoying your landscape just because of winter weather. Ask us for additional suggestions to keep your property interesting all winter long!



### KEY POINTS

- Bright colors are especially striking against a winter landscape
- Pyracantha can be a dramatic and sturdy addition to any winter landscape.



## DON'T LET YOUR EVERGREENS GET BURNED!

During the winter season, dry winds can pull the moisture out of your evergreens' needles and leaves. This is known as "winter burn," and it can cause the foliage on your valuable evergreen trees to turn brown. In severe cases, needles and leaves can be lost and permanent damage can occur.



The best way to protect your evergreens from winter burn is to have them sprayed with antidesiccants in the fall or early winter. These biodegradable latex materials coat the foliage and protect it from the drying effects of winter winds and hold on to its moisture. When warmer weather returns, the antidesiccant coating is shed by the evergreens as they prepare for new growth.

For evergreens that stay green, antidesiccants are just the thing!



## Call In the Pros to Prune

We can't emphasize enough the importance of professional pruning, and for very good reasons.

Professional pruning of your valuable trees and shrubs not only keeps them healthier and better looking now, but protects them from a whole host of other potential problems down the road.

Late fall and winter are great times for pruning. Once leaves have dropped, it's much easier to see where work needs to be done. In addition, plants are less active during the cooler months, with less fluid moving through the branches. This means that the wounds created from pruning will heal more quickly.



### REMEMBER

- Pruning is very beneficial in late fall and winter.
- Hiring professionals ensures that it's done the right way.

### AVOIDING STORM DAMAGE

Major snow, rain and wind storms can put a heavy load on your trees. If a tree has branch connections that are structurally weak, previously damaged limbs, or branches with too little space between them, snow accumulation can become a real problem. With selective pruning, the effects of winter storms on your trees can be minimized.

Nearly all drastic damage (and repairs) to your trees are preventable with regular, maintenance-level pruning. Split trees from weak joints, major limb removal due to breakage or contact with other limbs, and complete plant removal can all result when regular pruning is neglected.

Your landscape is a big investment. With professional pruning, you'll be helping that investment to grow in beauty and value for many years to come. Now is a great time to schedule a tree and shrub evaluation to determine what types of pruning are needed on your property.





# A Last Request Before Winter

If you haven't yet provided your lawn with a fall feeding, now is definitely the time to do it. Nobody likes going to bed hungry, and that applies to your turf as well. Your lawn consumes many more nutrients in the fall than during the rest of the year. That's because your turf is going through a natural process of preparation as the winter season approaches. At this time, top growth slows down and may stop altogether, and your grass plants no longer need to continue sending nutrients and water to their leaves.

Instead, your lawn is now focusing on two things: expanding its root system, and filling that root system with converted nutrients to be used next spring. Your lawn will undergo this process naturally every fall, but providing a heavy dose of fertilizer will make it much more effective. This will lead to fatter and healthier roots for better spring growth.

## CONVERTING FERTILIZER INTO FOOD

There is always a delay between the application of fertilizer and the first signs of change in color and growth. This is because your grass plants must first convert the nutrients in fertilizer into usable food. They'll spend their energy doing this throughout the fall and winter. That way, when spring arrives, they'll have a strong foundation upon which to grow. In addition to better green-up in the spring, heavy fall feeding will result in increased resistance to cool-weather fungus diseases by improving overall plant health. You may also notice improved color over the winter, since well-fed grass will have an easier time retaining moisture. This will make it harder for cold winter winds to dry out your grass blades and turn them brown.

Remember, fall is for fertilization. Be sure to treat your lawn to a nice, big dinner before winter arrives!



### KEY POINTS

- Grass plants consume more nutrients and produce more food in the fall.
- With heavy fall fertilization, your lawn will grow healthier, thicker and greener next spring.

## Bring on the Birds!

The dreary days of winter can be a lot more exciting when there are birds around to watch! The trick is attracting them to your property.

### FEEDER BASICS

A trip to your local home goods store will reveal a wide variety of choices in feeder types and styles.

Or, if you'd like to save money, you can make your own feeder. Just keep in mind that birds need rough surfaces where they can gain a secure hold with their sharp toenails. It's also a good idea to create some sort of barrier that will keep squirrels from stealing the bird food.

### FOOD TYPES

If you don't have a feeder, you might want to try covering pine cones with hardened bacon grease or peanut butter, then hanging them from a tree branch. Hanging a bag of suet will work well too...winter birds need fatty foods to help keep their body temperatures high in cold weather.

As far as seed goes, sunflower, hemp and millet are all favorites. In general, bird feeding specialty shops have fresher, cleaner seed. It is better to use seed fairly quickly, but if you need to store any seed, make sure it's in an air-tight container (wet, moldy seed can pass a deadly fungus on to birds).

And above all else, be patient. It will take a while for the birds to discover your feeding stations, but once they do, you'll be treated to a daily flock of beautiful, feathered friends.





## Clean Up Now for a Fresh Start Next Spring

Are you one of those people who likes to come home to a clean house after a vacation? If so, you're bound to get some extra pleasure from a tidy lawn and landscape when spring arrives. With just a little extra effort now, you'll save yourself some work next spring while giving your lawn and landscape plants a great head start on next year's growing season.

### YOUR LAWN

You can make a world of difference in your lawn simply by removing fallen leaves, branches and other debris. And by mowing your lawn shorter for the final cut of the season, you'll be helping it to retain better color throughout the winter.

### YOUR LANDSCAPE

Most perennials will benefit from being cut back now, and expired annuals should be removed. If you have tender bulbs in your yard, now is the time to dig them up and get them ready for storage.

Finally, adding a fresh layer of mulch around your plantings will give your landscape a neat and tidy appearance while keeping the temperature around the plants more steady than uncovered soil. Mulch will also help to hold moisture, which is one of the most important parts of fighting winter stress.

Remember, spring will be here before you know it, and you'll thank yourself for thinking ahead!

## Planning Improves the Value of Landscape Care

Perhaps there were a few yard projects that you thought you'd get to before the cooler months, but didn't. Almost everyone has a list of ideas that slipped "through the cracks." Blame it on the sunny days that were great for picnicking, the weekends that had too many events scheduled, or simply blame the sofa that was more appealing to visit than the garage.

Whatever your reason may be, a new year's resolution to make a detailed plan for the new growing season will help you "jump start" the new year. Developing a plan is simple and easy to do. Just follow a few guidelines, and you'll be on your way to a satisfying lawn season.

- First, sketch out your property - showing the whole yard and its relationship to the house, drive, patio, and deck. Next, draw the details of your yard, including the location of beds, landscape plants, and lawn areas.
- Then, with a different color, pencil in new lawn and garden projects you have in mind.
- Don't forget about a maintenance program. Try listing the individual services you'll need throughout the year.

