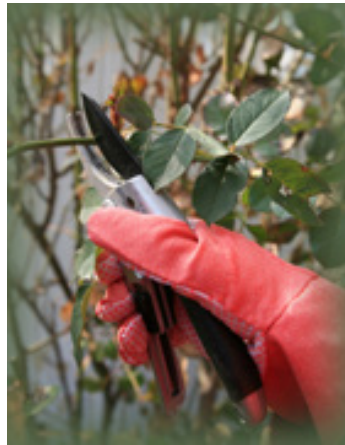




WINTER SEASONAL TIPS



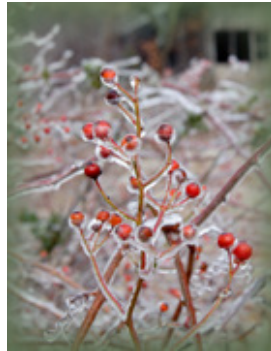
DECEMBER



- A good clean-up of the garden is an important task for winter. All leaves and branches should be removed from the lawn and garden areas. Leaves that are allowed to remain on the grass long term will kill it.
- If the roots of your trees are beginning to appear above the lawn grade, consider removing them below the surface using a hand saw to make a clean cut. If tree roots are larger than 2-3" in diameter, and you have more than a couple that are a problem you may want to consult a professional arborist.
- Tie up your plants and trees so that winter winds and ice will not damage them.
- When your rhododendron's leaves begin to fold back, the plant is only protecting itself from the cold weather. Nothing to worry about.
- Now is a great time to put some of that compost to use around your plant material and vegetable gardens.
- If the snow piles up too high on your plant material, remove it carefully with a straw broom. Be careful as too much movement of a frozen plant can cause damage.

JANUARY

- Inspect your trees and shrubs periodically for breaks or splits in branches caused by heavy snow, wind and ice. Be sure to cut the damaged tree or the shrub limbs off below the break. Make clean cuts and avoid "flush cutting" into the stem that the broken branch is attached to. Proper pruning is one of the best things you can do for your trees.
- Sword ferns should be cut down to the ground. New fronds will develop next spring. Don't wait to cut them as new growth will be coming and it will be difficult to cut the old out of the new.
- Prune fruit trees and other trees by taking out all crossing inside branches and thinning some of the old branches.
- Don't touch the roses. February is the time to prune those. Keep the dirt or mulch pushed up around the bottom six inches for freeze protection.
- Shrubs, trees and ground cover can be planted now as long as the soil is not too muddy. The sooner you get it in the ground, the better it will survive the upcoming summer months. Install plants above grade for good drainage.
- January is a great time to start planning for spring and summer projects.



FEBRUARY

- This month is most desirable for pruning, especially for fruit trees as buds will soon begin to push as spring approaches.
- Now the roses can be pruned. Prune the stems as low as six inches up to 24 inches. They are your roses, so whatever height you choose; make sure you leave a minimum of five strong stems per plant. Begin fertilizing with an organic product suitable for roses.
- Now is also the time to prune your grapes. Get them back to the main stock leaving no more than three main stocks per plant.
- Pre-emergent weed control should be applied. The best organic solution would be an application of corn gluten meal. This will help keep weed seeds from germinating and reduce your maintenance time in your shrub and flower beds.
- If you are utilizing our organic turf fertilization program, the first application is going down along with moss control. After a week moss that is thick can be raked out to allow the grass to recover.
- Why not plant a few clusters of primroses and pansies. When buying primroses, make sure to look into the centers of the plants for the new growth and blooms.

