



Scott's Landscape Services

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“GARDEN TIPS” For A New Year

Some Quick Reminders



[] **House Plants** . . . are growing slowly now, so don't fertilize, and keep watering to a minimum.

[] **Did You Have A Live Holiday Tree?** . . . then it's ready to be planted using the dirt you stored inside. Give it some water, and pile leaves around the base to protect the roots.

[] **Have Perennials?** . . . periodically check them after a freeze-thaw cycle. If the roots are showing, just press them back down and add more mulch.

[] **Winter Lawns Are Fragile...** therefore one should walk on them as little as possible when the blades are frozen.

[] **Limit Salt Use** . . . while ice is dangerous and traction is needed for safety, try to use sand or kitty-litter because excess salt hurts all growing plants.

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Winter can be good. . .

Plants that have been properly prepared for winter seem to like the time off; no struggles with insects or diseases, and they don't have to expend energy to put out new growth. Without winter, we would not have the joy of seeing the beauty of spring bulbs because they won't bloom unless they have a period of deep cold.

Winter weather benefits plants in another important way. The alternate freezing and thawing of the ground loosens hard soil. The “churning” action causes nutrients from sub-soil to be released which will nourish the plants during the growing season. The loosened soil also allows for greater root growth in the early spring for an added foundation of health.

Perhaps you too can slow down a bit. Maybe you'll have the time to think about your landscape, and how you may want to make it better.

Winter can be harsh . . .

Snow is beautiful, and it can provide a protective cover for ornamental shrubs and perennials. The danger is obvious if the snow is heavy; shapely shrubs can be bent out of shape. If at all possible, try to shake or sweep freshly fallen snow off your shrubbery.

Freezing rain presents another problem which one can do nothing about - just wait for the ice to melt off your plants, and hope that not too many branches have cracked under the weight.

The worst cruelty is when the ground freezes very deeply! Roots are damaged/killed, unable to now support the entire plant, so foliage and branches, and sometimes entire shrubs, are lost.

After a tough winter, all ornamentals should be checked, perhaps fertilized in order to help them recover, and selectively pruned to help them regain their good appearance.

Good or bad, winter is here, and we should make the best of it: go skiing; go to Hawaii; read a book.



Pruning Now For Safety



One does not want to wait for an ice storm to point out a weak branch, limb or leader; the wind and weight tearing the tree apart. The tree should have

been pruned, even cabled, to ensure structural strength. This picture of a broken leader is a tragedy for the tree and for the homeowner.

Now the expense of removal will outweigh the “cost” of proper pruning and inspection for weak limbs that could have been cabled.

We urge you to have your trees inspected. Off-season pruning and cabling is a good time for this as the entire structure can easily be observed.

A tree is too valuable to be taken for granted; its replacement most often impossible.

Dream of Spring

We’re just getting over the holiday season and winter has hardly even been noticed; we’ve all been so busy.

But when the coming days are dreary, and the penetrating cold is getting to you, or the snow and ice is no longer a novelty, merely ‘dream of spring.’ It will be here soon enough.

And then ‘dream’ of how you want your landscape to serve you better this coming year.

It’s never too early to plan.



Birds Will Flock Together

Listen: hear the chirping of their delight to be receiving your gifts of seed, bread, suet, water. Enjoy their active hopping and darting flights, enlivening your dormant landscape with their sounds, colors, and movement.

It’s easy to attract them now; they need you. There are no insects or berries or seed heads around to keep them away.

Use black sunflower seeds and peanuts to attract the most varieties: cardinals, woodpeckers, blue jays, gold & purple finches, chickadees, titmice, nut hatchers; add white millet for sparrows, juncos and mourning doves. Mixtures can contain seed fillers that birds won’t eat, so they may not be a bargain.



Suet gives needed quick energy, and don’t forget the water! The birdbath pictured here is heated to supply the water they need to keep flying and chirping their thankfulness for your care.

Professional Landscape Services

Landscape care is not easy! It requires a great deal of knowledge, and also, dedication.

For the year-round pleasure that your landscape gives you and your family, professional care is worth every penny invested.

Moreover, *with* professional care, your landscape gains in value and beauty year-after-year.

Now is a good time to review the care you have been ordering. Maybe your landscape could benefit from some additional services.

We will be delighted to serve you again this coming season, and request you take a little time now to renew those services you need.

To Garden Indoors

Studies reveal that houseplants are beneficial, giving off fresh oxygen while also absorbing indoor pollutants. Moreover, they just are a welcome sight during the winter months, adding to your decor.

The strategy to be successful is to match your and your plant’s needs. There are plants for bright light or a dim corner. There are plants that require a lot of attention, like orchids, and plants, like the *iron plant* pictured here, that are very easy to care for.

Watering is critical; adding water when the top inch of soil is dry. Overwatering destroys more plants perhaps than any other cause. Keep your house plants out of drafts; provide more light to flowering varieties, and move them to different spots until they are “happy.”



Cast Iron Houseplant