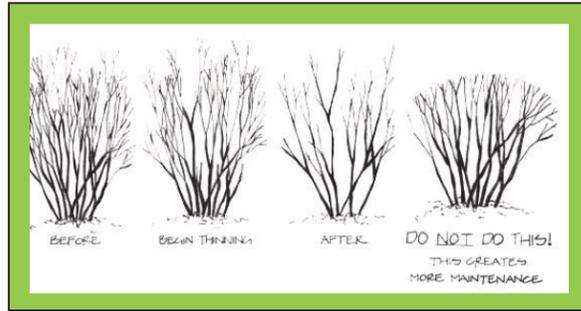


## WINTER PRUNING TIPS

PETE SAVIOLI  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR



Pruning deciduous plants in the winter promotes fast regrowth in the spring, as most plants are dormant during the winter, since the foliage is gone. The most obvious reasons for winter pruning are to reduce the size of a tree or shrub, maintain a plant's shape or improve its appearance. Pruning to remove dead or diseased wood or thin out the center branches will also help keep a plant healthy.

### Tools Needed

- Hedge Shears- To cut any small twigs or shrubs but nothing larger than the size of a pencil. They are a must for evergreens such as boxwood's, hollies and yews.
- By-Pass Pruners- Use for cuts about the size of a pencil. Also good for perennial pruning or rose pruning.
- Loppers- Use for larger branches up to one inch thick. Large cuts.
- Saws- Ideal for large branches. Keep in mind the more teeth the saw has, the finer the cut will be and the easier the healing process will be for the tree.

### Proper Winter Pruning Practices

- Prune on a mild, dry day.
- When pruning, first prune out dead or diseased branches.
- Remove the overgrown and smaller branches to increase light and air to the crown of the tree.
- In general, your goal is to keep the branches that develop or maintain the structure of the plant
- Cut the branches at the node, the point at which one branch attaches to another.
- Remove any branches that hang where you walk or mow to prevent future breaking. Where you see two branches crossing, prune the smaller one.
- Thin branches judiciously to allow air into the center of the tree or shrub.

A lot of various plants and trees may benefit from winter pruning. It is vital to the health of any plant that pruning be done properly, with the proper equipment. Incorrect pruning can cause harm to plants and cause the plant to grow improperly. It is always best to let a professional do any winter pruning to insure it be done properly and all your plant material receives the most benefit out of the pruning.



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SEPTEMBER 2015

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.



### Envision Your Dream Environment The H&M Landscaping Way

ture all of his qualifications, but the one that excites me the most is his energy. Once you have an opportunity to interact with him, you will agree with me. Jason is going to be a great addition to the team and create a measurable difference in your day to day experience with our organization. The second individual joining our team on August 24th is Kelly Lively, who brings over 10 years of administrative experience. I feel she will make an instant impact in our office and I am sure if you have the chance to talk with her, you will recognize that she is a great addition. As you can imagine, running a company as substantial as H&M Landscaping, I find myself in quite a few meetings throughout the week. To this day I am still amazed at how versatile our team is. It doesn't matter if they are 20 years old [WOW that seems like such a long time ago]

or 60 years old, we have a diverse team that seems to rise to any and all challenges. I may walk into a meeting with a handful of concerns or issues, but I know afterwards, we will have a comprehensive action plan that was developed by collaborative effort. Who ever originally came up with the Websters definition of synergy had my team in mind. I've always said (in life) you have people that give you energy or take energy away from you. I want to recognize them for giving me a jump start every time we meet. Our all-star team is the reason H&M landscaping has become the premier landscape provider in Northeast Ohio. Hope to talk to all of you soon.

*Mark Mazzurco*

Mark Mazzurco, President

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## FALL/WINTER PLANT CARE

JOE MAZZURCO  
VP SALES & INVENTORY CONTROL

As summer winds down and fall approaches, it is time to prepare the plants. A bit of extra attention during the fall and winter will help promote ongoing plant health and well-being in the new growth season.

One question often asked is when to prune. There are three seasons; late winter/early spring, summer and fall. Each of these seasons have a different technique—maintenance pruning, rejuvenation pruning and dormant pruning.

As we approach the fall season, here are a few tips for the fall and winter plant care.

- Prune and trim
- Use commercial anti-desiccant product such as, Wilt Pruf and moisture on evergreens and broad leaf evergreens
- Most importantly, since our winters have been colder, is to loosely wrap plants in exposed area with burlap to slow desiccation

- Plants to be burlaped include:
- Dwarf Alberta Spruce
  - Arborvitae
  - Boxwoods
  - Inkberry Holly
  - Japanese Umbrella
  - Mountain Laurel
  - Yew

If this seems overwhelming, please call H&M Landscaping and one of our representatives will come out to your home for a free estimate.

## DESIGNING BY COMMON “SENSES”

JOSEPH WILKS  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

This is the continuation of the article that was featured in our Summer Edition.

The sense of **Smell**. The sense of smell, besides the sense of sight is one that is most commonly used in setting up and designing a landscape. The fragrance announces that there is something special just around the corner or provided a refreshing and invigorating stimulus to the senses. Here the olfactory nerve can get a real workout and if one is not careful using too many different fragrances within a space it can have an adverse effect. Rather than accenting with a specific type of fragrance, such as lilac, viburnum, or Mock Orange combining a multitude of these fragrances diminishes the intended effect. Therefore when designing with fragrance allow the plant of choice to envelope its area and refrain from placing additional strong scented plants within the designed vicinity. One way to bring this about is to use a strong scented plant to signify a change, a transition from one “room” to the next keeping in mind that each aspect of the design should be used and experienced and that bypassing an area should be kept at a minimum. After all the investment in time, finances and design the landscape should be enjoyed to the fullest capacity the area has to offer! One last aspect to also bear in mind is that big fragrance can come in small packages. Consider planting Galium odoratum, Sweet Woodruff, along a walk in a shade to semi shady location and when ruffled, the fragrance of Sweet Woodruff is both subtle yet refreshing.

The sense of **Sight**. As with smell the sense of sight can help one describe a given landscape in mere moments and help orient one in space. Bearing this in mind landscapes should be designed as though one is reading a great book. It should tell a story, whether that story is a celebration of light, the passage of time, or, as with certain Japanese inspired gardens, a voyage through life or voyage of the seas. Each landscape can be done in miniature but paying close attention to detail. The eye is capable of picking out some of the finest details in almost any given landscape; therefore attention to detail is vital. Key focal points should be pronounced and visually enhanced by the material surrounding the focal point. Even though a landscape should have a smooth transition from one “room” to the next; each “room” should be its own unique space highlighting its own unique aspects. Colors are another aspect to keep in mind. Subtle differences in colors can accentuate or detract from the intended effect. Try to pick a central theme and use items that accentuate that theme throughout the entire landscape paying attention to the details of color and texture in such a way that their use help complete that story that the landscape is voicing. By borrowing the view from nature or “windows” capturing specific views of a given area, generally outside the immediate landscape room will help minimize these feelings but also expand the area, visually speaking. An example of this would be utilizing a back drop of tall mature evergreens from a neighbor, a mountain view through a parting of large shrubs, or a view of a lake in the distance. Do not be afraid to expand the horizon to incorporate unique and interesting views!



The sense of **Hearing**. The sense of hearing is sometimes one of the most overlooked applications to a landscape. Generally landscape is used to block sound out such as the sounds created by the local highway system, playgrounds, or other sounds some may find intrusive to their privacy. Sometimes the landscape is used to encourage sound(s) such as falling water or if the landscape is designed for birds, then the sound of music maybe the highlight of the adventure. To broaden the pallet of design, take a walk! Listen to the sounds feet make on different surfaces, the sounds of tires on pavement verses on brick and the sound of the wind in a deciduous tree as opposed to a conifer. The sense of hearing can move one easily through a landscape and become, in its own right, a story worth reading or in this application following through the landscape. One may not be able to see the wind but one can hear and see the effects of the wind and can design the landscape to enhance this sense and in a “sense” capture nature for a time!

Landscaping should embrace each of the five senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing and when designing according to the senses it should move one through the landscape from “room” to “room”. Encourage the visitor to enjoy each space and soak in the details that surround. When one is designing for a space I encourage one to envision the space through each of the five senses. Try to envision the space as a story and how is that story going to play out: ...the visitor approaches the hidden garden through a pergola intertwined with climbing vegetables of all sorts so that the visitor may be nourished before their journey. Upon stepping into the hidden garden the visitor is met with the fragrance of fresh mint with a hint of Lilac. Moving from space to space the crunch of gravel underfoot gives attention to that change and the quiet bubbling of a water feature set in the corner of the room adds to the tranquility of the space. The colors of blue and mist along with purples adds to this intended tranquility and opposite the water is a large lounge chair set to catch a hint of sunlight, enough to warm the body to the optimum temperature for a late afternoon nap, if so desired... Encourage visitors to your landscape world and enjoy it for all it has to offer. Do not be surprised if there are return visitors to the garden.

## FALL TREE PLANTING

ED SMITH  
CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Because spring is the time for new growth, most people think of planting trees and shrubs then. But cool temperatures and adequate rainfall make fall a better time to plant as well. The soil may be warmer and less damp than in the spring, and there is more time to get the job done in fall.

Fall-planted stock does demand extra attention.



Plants may not have enough time to establish a good root system before winter hits. Cold winter winds and sunshine cause plants to lose water from their branches, and the roots must be able to replace that water if plants are to survive. Evergreens, particularly broad-leaved evergreens, are more susceptible to winter desiccation because their leaves have more surface from which to lose water than narrow-leaved evergreens and bare trees. It is very important to water the newly planted evergreen trees deeply before winter sets in so they won't dry out. You can wrap the smaller evergreens with burlap to give them extra protection from the wind or salt spray if close to the road.

Plant trees and shrubs early enough in the fall for the plant to develop a good root system. Soil temperatures should be well above 55 F at a depth of 6 inches at planting time. This condition usually exists until early to late October, depending on your location. Of course, weather conditions vary from year to year and with microclimates around the home landscape.

Water plants thoroughly when needed to supply about 1 inch of water per week. Continue watering until the ground is frozen, even after deciduous plants have lost their leaves. Wrap the trunks of thin-barked, young trees in late November to prevent frost cracks, sunscald, and animal damage, but be sure to re-

move the wrap in March. As soon as the ground thaws out in the spring, fertilize with tree spikes or 14-14-14 fertilizer to get the trees off to a good start for the season.

Ground covers and shallow-rooted shrubs may be heaved out of the ground by alternate freezing and thawing of the soil that often occurs in winter. A 2-4 inch layer of mulch can help prevent wide soil temperature fluctuations. Apply materials such as compost, shredded bark or straw in late November or early December, after the plants are fully dormant and the soil is cold.

If you follow the tips from this article, your trees and shrubs will survive the winter and thank you in the spring.



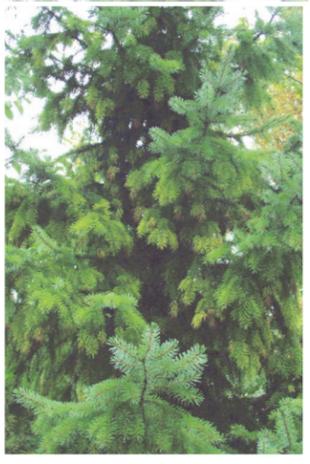
“  
*Discover the Difference  
Experience Makes.*”



## DID YOU KNOW?

NICK TINIK  
MAINTENANCE PRODUCTION MANAGER

- ◆ That Bamboo is the fastest-growing woody plant in the world; it can grow 35 inches in a single day.
- ◆ The average Tree drinks about 520 gallons of water each year.
- ◆ Trees are able to communicate and defend themselves against attacking insects. Scientists have found that trees can flood their leaves with chemicals called phenolic when the insects begin their raid. They can also signal danger to other trees so they can start their own defense.
- ◆ The different parts of a tree grow at different times throughout the year. Typically, most of the foliage growth happens in the spring, followed by trunk growth in the summer and root growth in the fall and winter.



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