



LATE FALL



TurfMasters LLC
Imagine What Green...
Can Do For You!

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Turf Matters

THE FINAL CUT

Wondering how long you should keep mowing your lawn this year? Well, as long as it keeps growing, you should keep mowing! Once it's apparent that top growth has come to a halt, you'll be ready for the final cut of the year.

While the rule of thumb is to remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade through most of the growing season, you'll want to mow a lot shorter for the final cut. A final mowing height of 1 1/2" to 2 1/2" is recommended, since you don't want grass blades left long during the winter. Long blades can lie over, increasing humidity underneath snow cover. This can encourage fungus diseases such as snow mold to develop.



Cutting grass short for the final mowing of the season helps to prevent fungus diseases.

Call the Pros to Prune

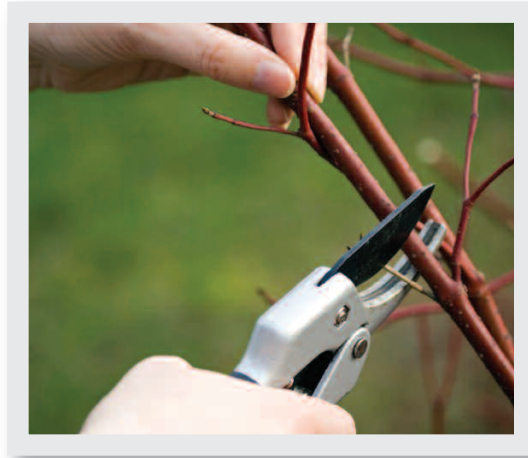
IT'S A GREAT TIME OF YEAR FOR THIS SERVICE

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.

AVOIDING STORM DAMAGE

Major snow 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 snow storms on your trees can be minimized.



Professional pruning helps to prevent problems down the road.

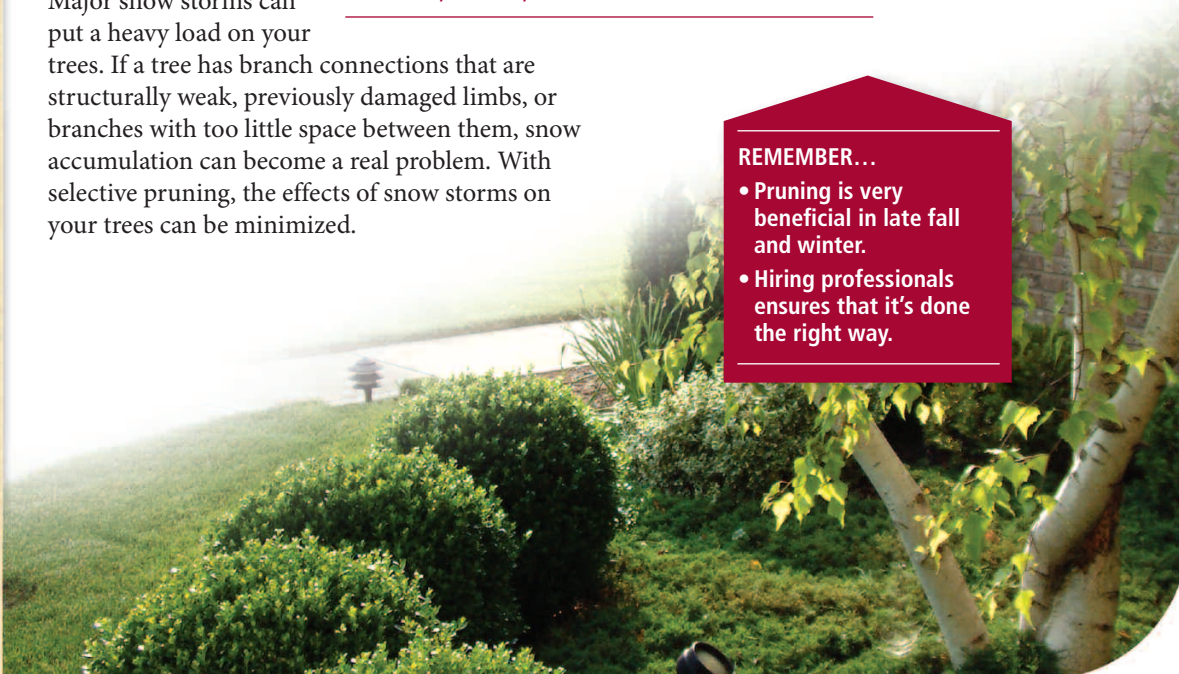
NIP POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN THE BUD

Nearly all drastic repairs are preventable with regular, maintenance-level pruning. Split trees from weak joints, major limb removal due to 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.

REMEMBER...

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



STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

According to *Landscape Management* magazine, a study conducted by the National Gardening Association revealed that homeowners spent a record \$44.7 billion on professional lawn and landscape services in 2006. This represents an increase of \$20.2 billion since 2001! Here are some other interesting facts from the survey:

- 34.5 million households hired at least one type of lawn and landscape service.
- 27.8 million households hired lawn care and landscape maintenance services.
- 6.9 million households hired landscape installation and construction services.
- 11.5 million households hired tree care services.
- 2.3 million households hired landscape design services.

Clearly, more and more homeowners are coming to appreciate the benefits of a professionally designed and maintained lawn and landscape!



A Wonderful Winter Landscape

IT CAN BE YOURS!

With a little planning, your landscape can be as beautiful in the winter as it is in mid-summer. The key is to add multi-seasonal interest by incorporating multiple shapes, colors and textures. Here are some ways to do that:

- Evergreens can be used as a backdrop against which to accent other species. From 6" high creeping junipers to 40' arborvitae, and from shades of green to silvery blues to deep violets, the choices in evergreens are many.
- Antidesiccant spray, a waxy substance that is applied to evergreens to prevent them from drying out in the winter, will make them glisten in the winter sun. So, by protecting your evergreens, you can add a little sparkle to your winter landscape too!
- Brightly colored berries look great in winter landscapes. Hollies may be the best-known berry producers, but barberries, pyracantha and cotoneaster all provide colorful berries as well.
- When sweetgum trees lose their leaves, they leave behind spiked balls that can serve as natural hanging ornaments.
- Heathers and heaths are low-growing evergreens that will provide shades of pink, lavender, orange, red or rust in both their flowers and foliage.
- Red-twig dogwood will add color by displaying its thick red branches after losing its leaves.

- Tall, reedy ornamental grass varieties will turn tan in color when they dry. This may not be interesting on its own, but it looks great against the backdrop of a beautiful evergreen.

You don't have to stop enjoying your landscape just



Ornamental grasses can add interesting textures to the winter landscape.

because of winter weather. There are lots of plants to choose from that will keep your property looking wonderful all winter long!

COLORS

We all look forward to the brilliant yellows, oranges and reds that our trees treat us to in the fall. Sometimes, however, the fall color show just doesn't seem as vibrant. Why is that? And is there anything we can do to promote stronger fall color?

First of all, it helps to have an understanding of how leaves change color. Plant leaves contain various pigments that produce color: chlorophyll for green, carotenes and xanthophyll for yellow, and anthocyanin for red. When days are longer in the summer, chlorophyll is produced constantly. This masks the other pigments and causes leaves to stay green.

Then, as days grow shorter in the fall, chlorophyll production decreases in leaves. This makes the other pigments more visible. If we have warm, bright, sunny days followed by cool nights, more red pigments will be produced – and fall colors will be more striking. On the other hand, if we have cloudy, cool weather, the colors won't be nearly as good.

Spring Bulbs

PLANTING TIME IS HERE!



Spring just wouldn't be the same without the beauty of colorful flowers rising up from the ground. If you want to add some spring-blooming magic to your landscape, there's no time like the present for planting spring bulbs.

The first step is to choose a spot that will receive plenty of sunlight in the spring. This spot should be at least 5' away from any building foundations, since heat from buildings can damage bulbs. Ideally, soil will be well-drained with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0.

The next step is to dig the planting holes. In general, large bulbs such as tulips need to be planted 8" deep and 6" apart. Small bulbs like crocus, on the other hand, do best when planted 5" deep and 3" apart. Pointed ends should be facing up, and it's a

good idea to mix in organic matter (peat moss or compost) when filling the holes back up. Sand or gypsum can also be added to the soil to improve drainage, and a bulb fertilizer such as bone meal can be mixed in to encourage healthy growth.

When choosing bulbs, both color and bloom size should be considered. For the most part, smaller bulbs produce smaller flowers and bloom earlier in the spring. Larger bulbs tend to produce bigger flowers and bloom later in the spring.

Since flowers from bulbs are perennials, you can count on them to keep coming back for years to come!

REMEMBER...

- Bulbs need lots of spring sunlight.
- A bulb fertilizer will promote better growth.



Bulbs planted now will bring beautiful color to your spring landscape.

O F F A L L



Leaves changing colors is one of the best parts of fall.

Make a Statement with Unusual Ornamentals

If you're looking for ways to make your landscape stand out from the crowd, planting uncommon ornamental trees is a great way to do it. There are lots of choices in sizes, colors and textures that can help to make your property one-of-a-kind.

Depending on your specific tastes, you may want to consider some of the following:

Dawn redwood – This fast-growing conifer (up to 100' at maturity) was considered extinct until live specimens were discovered growing in China in the 1940s. Its delicate, lacy foliage turns gold in the fall, and it works well as a border or fence line tree.

Stewartia – This deciduous tree grows to 30' in height and provides white blooms in late spring and early summer. Yellow, red and purple leaves provide striking fall color, and exfoliating bark adds winter interest.

Katsura tree – Growing at a rate of 12" to 18" per year, this deciduous tree can grow up to 60' in height. Dense foliage makes it great for shade. Leaves start out reddish-purple, changing to a dark bluish-

green and eventually turning yellow or orange in the fall.

Of course, when choosing an ornamental tree, it's important to ensure that the growing conditions on your property will match the plant's growth requirements. Also, it's critical to provide enough space for the tree when it's full-grown. A young tree might fit perfectly into your landscape right now, but after a few years of growth it may require extensive pruning just to keep it in bounds!



Red foliage makes this Stewartia a stand-out.

The weather definitely has a big say in the type of fall color show we can look forward to. But we can have a say too, simply by taking good care of our trees. Healthy trees that are free of stress are known to produce more vibrant fall color for longer periods of time. With regular fertilization, maintenance-level pruning, sufficient watering in the absence of rainfall, and ongoing inspections for insects and disease, our trees will be much more likely to show us their true fall colors!



TurfMasters LLC
Imagine What Green...
Can Do For You!

Reward yourself: Spread the good news about TurfMasters and **SAVE \$20!**

If you know any homeowners who can benefit from the use of our services, have them give us a call at (203) 865-0300 (Greater New Haven) or (860) 528-4440 (Greater Hartford). All they have to do is mention your name. For each referral you send us who signs up for our Full Program, you'll receive \$20 off your next service to show our gratitude!

This program applies to new clients only, and Referral Fees may not exceed the price per service. New clients must receive our Full Lawn Program to qualify for referral discount.

Until Next Year...

It's hard to believe this year will be over soon! It's been great working with you as always, and we hope you've been satisfied with our services. Your business means a great deal to us, and we're working hard to keep you happy.

We encourage you to take some time this fall to think back over the past growing season. Were there certain services that you found especially beneficial? Were there any services that you'd rather do without? 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 next spring. ***Have a great winter!***



You can make your own bird feeder in no time!

It's for the Birds!

Nothing can brighten up a dreary winter day like the sounds and activity of birds feeding in your yard. An easy and inexpensive way to attract these friendly flyers to your landscape is to build them a "disappearing bird feeder," and it's easier than you might think!

The first step is to tie a piece of yarn around a stale bagel so that you can hang it. Next, mix $\frac{2}{3}$ creamy or chunky peanut butter with $\frac{1}{3}$ solid vegetable shortening. The shortening will make swallowing easier for the birds.

After covering the bagel in the peanut butter/shortening mixture, roll it in bird seed (mixed wild bird seed works well). Finally, hang your disappearing feeder where you'll have a good view, and wait for the birds to appear. Before you know it, all that will be left is the yarn!

This is a great project for the kids, and the birds will certainly enjoy it too!