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Plant Rejuvenations – Why Do I Need To Do That?

Plant management is one of the most important concepts to maintaining your landscape. A natural pruning technique promotes the natural beauty of the shrubs and ground covers in the landscape. We have created this information sheet to hopefully help our clients better understand the "Plant Rejuvenation" and "Selective Pruning" management techniques that we will be using on your property. "Plant Rejuvenation" is in essence a severe pruning of the plant that is typically performed through the late winter and spring months.

Why perform a "Spring Cut Back"?

1. To revitalize a sheared shrub. When shrubs are continually sheared the plant becomes very woody and bare looking. Also, flowers are continually being removed.
2. Keep the plants contained within their intended space without having to continually shear them. Replacing plants in this situation with plants that will fit the intended space is another solution.



3. Rejuvenating old shrubs by removing older wood and leaving younger healthier wood. This helps to promote flowering since most flowering shrubs will bloom either on 1-year old growth or on new growth.

What can you expect to see from the "Spring Cut Back"?

The first step is cutting back the plant material to an appropriate height. This will also remove any frost damage from the plants that may have occurred during the winter. Typically within the first 30 days you will see new growth appear. As we start into summer you will begin to see more and more flowers on several of the different shrubs and ground covers. Summer is the growing season for a majority of the plants, so this is the time that we want to help control the growth through the use of "Selective Pruning".



"Selective Pruning" is a method of only pruning the unwanted growth from the plant. This would

Plant Rejuvenations, continued from page 1

include awkward growth, crossing branches and deadwood. The goal is to keep the natural look of the shrub and help promote flowering. Please remember that Pruning is an invigorating process and one of the most important parts of managing your landscape...



A list of plants to be renovated will be provided each month in the "Monthly Landscape Checklist" section of the newsletter.

Tips On Tree Watering In Dry Climates

Even desert trees need water: Depending upon the type of tree, its age, its root structure, and the type of soil it is growing in will depend on when and how much water it will need. A tree's roots can extend more than three times wider than the canopy of the tree and grow two to three feet in depth. Trees should be watered slowly and deeply. It's important to get the water deep into the soil where the tree roots can absorb it.

Established trees should not be watered at the trunk, not only can it cause trunk rot but very few roots are there as the tree grows. Instead, irrigate from the dripline (the outside edge of the canopy) outward so as the roots grow out and away from the trunk you are moving the water supply where the roots can get to it. The distance will depend upon the size of the tree and the nature of the tree's root system. As a basic rule of the thumb, apply water in a circular band that's at least half as wide as the distance from the trunk to the dripline.

Please don't let anyone tell you desert trees don't need any water in the winter this can be very stressful for a tree.

As always if you have any questions about regarding your trees always contact an Arborist.



Weed Control, Pre-emergent Herbicide

Utilizing a pre-emergent herbicide is a common practice that is aimed at the prevention of new weed growth in landscaped areas. Unlike post-emergent herbicide which is used to kill existing weeds, pre-emergent creates a barrier to keep weed seeds from germinating. The process is carried out typically two times per year based on barrier effectiveness of approximately 6 months.

With the expectation of our winter and early spring season rains, now is one of the best times to apply pre-emergent herbicide. Pre-emergent herbicide should be applied to the landscaped areas where you wish to prevent the growth of weeds. Timing of the application is very important. It requires water to leach the herbicide into the soil where the weed seed

is residing. Once the pre-emergent herbicide is absorbed into the soil, it will help deter the germination of most weeds. It is important not to disturb the area where you have applied pre-emergent. The more activity in the area will only break the barrier that you are trying to create allowing weeds a better chance of germinating.

An important factor when choosing a pre-emergent herbicide is to determine what type of weeds you have had in the past and selecting a product that targets that type of weed. Always follow the label when applying chemicals. With proper planning and good timing you can have a successful pre-emergent application.



MONTHLY LANDSCAPE CHECKLIST

Plant Renovation List (Common Type Plants)

- √ Bursage
- √ Desert Milkweed
- √ Butterfly Bush
- √ Baccharis Centennial 'Coyote Bush'
- √ Bougainvillea
- √ All Sage Species (Texas Ranger, Green Cloud, Rio Bravo, Silver Cloud, etc.)
- √ Dalea
- √ Juniper
- √ Lantana
- √ Heavenly Bamboo
- √ Evening Primrose
- √ Fountain Grass
- √ Plumbago
- √ Pyrocantha
- √ Lady Bank's Rose
- √ Salvia – Chaparral Sage & Purple Sage
- √ Yellow Bells
- √ Orange Jubilee
- √ Verbena

General Irrigation Setting (Actual times will vary depending on the precipitation rate of your system)

- √ Rye Grass Turf irrigated using typical pop-up sprinklers: 5 – 8 minutes twice per week.
- √ Dormant Bermuda Turf: Water once every few weeks to one time a month for a few minutes just to keep some moisture in the soil for the stolons.
- √ Drip irrigation for Plants: 8 – 12 minutes one time per week.
- √ Drip irrigation for Trees: 10 – 20 minutes one time per week.

Please remember that these are general and that depending on your system you may need to adjust watering times up or down. Also, if we do receive rain then irrigation can be suspended until the soil dries.