



weekender

NEWS AND HOW TO'S FOR GREATER OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT

Fall 2009

Planting trees and shrubs in the fall gives it a head start in the Spring



Fall is the Perfect Time for Planting Your Trees

Cooler temperatures and moist conditions will encourage the tree to put out its roots while getting used to its new location. Plus, the new tree will have more time to get established before the weather heats up next summer.

If you'll be planting a new tree this fall, the following guidelines will help to provide it with the best chances for growing success:

- The mature size of the tree should be taken into consideration to allow for enough room to grow. Spacing trees according to their size when planted can lead to big headaches down the road.
- If the tree is large or top-heavy, it should be staked for support. This will help to keep it stable in heavier winds.
- The tree should be planted in a large, deep hole that has been backfilled with loose, organic soil. Feeder roots will begin growing soon after planting, and they'll need good soil to grow into.
- The tree's root ball should be placed as deep into the soil as it was at the nursery.
- Plastic twine and burlap should always be removed from the tree's root ball before planting. If left on, they'll strangle the tree.
- The tree should only be planted where good drainage is available.
- After planting, new trees should be watered deeply once or twice per week to encourage root growth. Leaving a trickling hose at the drip line of the new tree for several hours will usually provide adequate moisture.

Finally, you should make sure that any trees you plant are compatible with our climate and growing conditions. Here are just a few ornamental trees that are known to thrive in the central Florida region:

See page 2 for examples of trees conducive to Florida climate

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

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- Proper pruning
- Fire Ants
- Planting tips
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Planting a Tree This Fall Gives you a Head Start on the Next Growing Season



These trees are perfect for conditions in Florida

Cherry laurel:

Fragrant white flowers in spring, attractive to birds, grows to 35' in height.

Crape myrtle:

A variety of flower colors in spring and summer, 20' to 30' in height.

Dogwood:

Attractive to birds, white flowers in spring, grows to 40' in height.

Redbud:

Grows rapidly, beautiful rose-colored flowers in spring, 20' to 30' in height.

Orchid tree:

Purple to white flowers, some varieties in constant bloom, 20' to 30' in height.

Golden rain tree:

Drought and wind resistant, yellow flowers in fall, grows to 40' in height.



Add Value to Your Home With Tree & Shrub Care

Studies show that a well-maintained landscape can add as much as 15% to the value of a home at resale. Are your trees and shrubs getting the care they deserve?

At Scotts LawnService®, we've made a name for ourselves by helping our customers grow lush, green, beautiful lawns. And now, you can rely on us to provide your trees and shrubs with comprehensive care that will keep them growing in beauty and value for years to come. Our Miracle-Gro® Professional Tree & Shrub Care Program was designed with the unique needs of your landscape plants in mind, and we can custom-tailor a program to fit your specific goals and budget.

When you sign up for a Miracle-Gro Professional Tree & Shrub Care Program from Scotts LawnService, here's what you can expect:

Professional feeding:

We'll provide your trees and shrubs with seasonal, root zone feedings of timed-release fertilizer. By applying the fertilizer directly into the root zone, it will be distributed more evenly throughout the soil. This will make it easier for your landscape plants to absorb and use the nutrients they need for vigorous, beautiful growth.

Disease control:

We'll evaluate your landscape to determine which trees and shrubs may be prone to particular diseases. Then, those plants will receive preventative treatments throughout the year. If other diseases do appear, they'll immediately be treated with the appropriate control materials.

Insect control:

We'll provide your trees and shrubs with a combination of preventative treatments and control applications throughout the year to minimize damage from harmful insect pests. You can rest assured that the appropriate product will be used only when and where needed, and in the proper amounts for effective control.

Continuous monitoring:

Your Miracle-Gro landscape specialist will keep a constant eye on your landscape plants for signs of trouble. In this way, we can identify and correct any problems before they have a chance to seriously affect your trees and shrubs.

At Scotts LawnService, we're committed to improving the beauty and value of your landscape plants. For top-quality care of your growing landscape investment, give us a call today at **1-888-872-6887**. We'll be happy to provide you with further details on our Miracle-Gro Professional Tree & Shrub Care Program, and give you a FREE, no-obligation analysis for your tree and shrub care needs.



Proper Pruning is Essential for Healthy Growth

Pruning improves a plant's appearance



Trees and shrubs in virtually every suburban landscape require pruning at some point. While the reasons for pruning vary from plant to plant, one thing is certain - the right pruning can go a long way toward improving the health and appearance of your trees and shrubs, especially where flowering plants are concerned.

Why prune anyway?

- To improve a plant's appearance and help it keep the right shape.
- To prompt new growth. Plants respond to pruning by growing. Pruning also maximizes flowers and fruit. Pruning is very important for newly transplanted trees and shrubs, since it helps to balance foliage to what the roots can support.
- To increase the plant's health by removing dead, diseased or insect-infested wood.
- To increase the flow of air and light to inner branches (this helps to prevent disease).
- For safety. Pruning removes weak, diseased or dead branches that could fall and hurt people or damage property.

When is the best time to prune?

This is a frequently asked question; the answer varies depending on the kind of plant and when and where flowers appear.

If blooms grow on shoots from the current season, like many kinds of roses do, you need to prune before the plant blooms. If blooms grow on wood from the previous year (like the forsythia), or on wood that is two or more years old (like the apple tree), you need to prune immediately after blooming. It's important to prune these plants before buds set for the next season.

Never top a tree!

Topping is the complete removal or cutting back of large branches in mature trees, leaving behind big, open wounds. Usually done to reduce the size of a mature tree, topping is extremely harmful. This practice encourages disease, removes important food-producing leaves, weakens existing branches and permanently disfigures trees.

Give us a call with any questions. We want to help ensure that your trees and shrubs are pruned the right way!





Fire Ants Can Survive Florida Winters



Although they don't like cold temperatures, these pests easily survive our winters and build new mounds as the weather permits.

Winter throughout much of Florida does not necessarily mean snow and ice, but it can mean days of uncomfortably cold temperatures. Fire ants in winter may not be noticed as often. However, the pests remain in the soil and continue to cause problems for those spending time outdoors, whether or not they are noticed regularly above ground.

Fire ants are usually less active during the winter months, but occasionally may mound following winter rains or warmer periods when daytime temperatures are above 70 degrees. It's also fairly common to find fire ant mounds along curbs, sidewalks or foundations, where the ants take advantage of the sun's reflection from the hard surfaces and moisture from irrigation run-off.

Fire ants' food preferences change during the cold winter months, when the queen's egg production slows. In the winter, the ants typically do not seek out the high-protein, oily foods that they prefer in warm weather. Therefore, bait-formulated control products are generally not effective in winter.

Nevertheless, if mounds become a problem in your lawn, no matter what time of year, your Scotts LawnService professional who treats your lawn can also treat the mounds to control the fire ant problem. To take advantage of this service, just give us a call at **1-888-872-6887**.

Defend What's Yours!



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Planting Tips

DO NOT OVERPLANT.

Knowing the mature heights and widths of plants will save you the trouble of dealing with an overcrowded landscape down the road.

AVOID OVERCLUTTERING.

Lots of trees and shrubs may seem like a great idea, but too many could make watering, mowing and general maintenance more difficult than it needs to be.

CHOOSE SHRUBS THAT ARE THE RIGHT SIZE FOR YOUR HOME

Certain shrubs may block windows and other architectural features when full-grown. Dwarf shrubs are always a good idea, and require less pruning.

MAKE SURE PLANTS AREN'T TOO CLOSE

Find out the mature width of the plant, cut that in half and add a foot. This is the distance the plant should be kept away from the house in order to maintain an attractive landscape setting.

AVOID TOO MANY BRIGHT COLORS.

Too much color can overwhelm the eye, leading to a lack of focus in your landscape.



Lawn Maintenance easy tips for a beautiful lawn

A well-maintained lawn can help to provide a healthier, more pleasant environment for you, your family and your community. Here are some interesting facts about lawns that you may not be aware of:

1. A 50' x 50' lawn produces enough daily oxygen for a family of four.
2. Grass acts as a natural air conditioner by absorbing the sun's heat.
3. Grass helps to clean the air, absorbing pollutants and returning pure oxygen in exchange.
4. A thick lawn naturally deters allergy-causing weed pollen.
5. Biting and stinging insects are found less often in lawns that are free of blooming weeds.
6. Noise is reduced in areas where lawns are present (soft-surfaced landscapes absorb sound, while hard surfaces reflect it).
7. Thick turf filters surface water before it returns to ground water supplies.
8. Grass works as a natural barrier to soil erosion caused by wind and water.

By keeping your lawn in top shape, you'll be rewarded with a wealth of benefits in return!

HELP A NEIGHBOR GET THEIR DREAM LAWN

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this terrific referral opportunity!*

and save
\$30

Try this Summer Word Search

Feed the Birds for More Fall Color!

Fall is a season of change for all of nature, including wild birds. As temperatures cool, natural food supplies become less abundant. Birds begin to seek alternative food sources, like feeders, making fall the perfect time to feed wild birds.

As you prepare your yard for cooler weather, help the wild birds in your area by considering these simple tips:

- Fill feeders with premium wild bird food rich in fat and protein
- Try hanging suet, an excellent source of energy
- Provide a source of fresh, unfrozen water

With the highest-quality seeds, fruits, and nuts, **Scotts Songbird Selections** gives wild birds the energy they need as they prepare for the cooler seasons. Wild birds will recognize your feeders as a food source even after the weather turns. Attracting these colorful, musical birds will bring even more beauty and variety to your yard this fall and throughout winter.



Scotts
Songbird
SELECTIONS®



Downy Woodpecker

For retailer information, visit www.scottswildbirdfood.com.

T S O A N E W I P H O C B T H T
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crocus	aeration	amaryllis	bluegrass
broadleaf	bulb	daffodil	drought
fertilize	flower	foliage	garden
hyacinths	insects	iris	lawn
lilium	moisture	nutrients	oxygen
plants	plugs	prune	rain
rhizomes	root	rootstalks	shade
soil	summer	sun	thatch
tillers	tulip	turf	turfgrass

▶ [Click here to find out more about our wild bird food.](#)



cook's corner



Sunrise Smoothie Rosiland Harris

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of pineapple juice
1 cup vanilla low fat yogurt or frozen yogurt

1 cup fresh strawberry or frozen strawberry partially thawed
2 ripe, medium bananas, peeled

DIRECTIONS

Combine pineapple juice, yogurt, strawberries and bananas in blender or food processor container. Cover, blend until smooth.

Garnish with fresh fruit, if desired



Mixed Vegetable Casserole

INGREDIENTS

1 large pkg. frozen mixed vegetables
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese or shredded Monterey Jack & Cheddar
1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup chopped celery
1 med. onion chopped
1 stick margarine
1 tube Ritz crackers, crumbled

DIRECTIONS

Cook vegetables according to pkg directions until just tender. Put in greased casserole leaving at least 1 inch to add topping. Next mix onion, celery, cheese & mayo. Spread mixture over veggies. Melt margarine & mix w/cracker crumbs. Sprinkle on top. Bake at 350° for 30 min.

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Shrimp on the Grill Joe Dolan

INGREDIENTS

30 - 40 large shrimp
Peeled and deveined
1 large bottle Frank's Louisiana Hot Sauce
1 stick of Butter
1 pkg of hickory smoked bacon
Toothpicks

DIRECTIONS

Pour the bottle of Franks into a 9 x 12 Pyrex dish.
Melt the stick of butter and mix together. Hold aside.
Slice the bacon strips into thirds.
Wrap the bacon around the shrimp with a toothpick.
Marinate in the sauce for 3-5 hours (covered).
Place the shrimp on the grill and let sear.
When the shrimp turns to pink and firm, remove.

