

Fall / Winter 2009



Dear Customers:

As always, I hope this finds you well and looking forward to spending great times with family and friends during the holidays. Thanks to you we have kept two crews busy each day. We are very fortunate to have such GREAT CUSTOMERS! To continue our service to you, we will send the newsletter out twice a year.

Around the nursery, we are busy preparing for winter – covering the semi-greenhouses to impede wind since these over winter our “baby plants”. The greenhouses are ready for the annuals and perennials we grow. Our trees are gorgeous and large.

Hurricane Ida has filled our irrigation lake. Can you believe we have fresh water jellyfish in the lake? They are very small and do not sting, but jellyfish are all the same. Ashlynn found them while out in the paddleboat. Ashlynn is doing wonderfully. She has found her way at school, once mom quit fighting her battles. Her soccer skills continue to improve and she made “All-Stars” again! She has an awesome “7 iron” kick. Of course, mom cannot give up cheering her and the team on, but it seems to embarrass her.

After many months of her pony recuperating, she rode him on Saturday. Well, I cried the whole entire time, because even the vets had said to “put him down”, but Ashlynn never gave up! This episode reminded me to “believe in miracles” in whatever shape they may come in.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisbeth Prins", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Lisbeth Prins
President

Helpful Hints

Pruners are one of the most important items to have when you are working in your garden. If you are pruning back small suckers from trees and deadheading perennials, you will want to make sure that you have a pair that will last a long time. You might want to consider investing in a pair of Felco pruners. Many landscapers use these because they take a beating and keep cutting. For more information check out their website: www.felcostore.com

Looking to see if a plant will overwinter in your garden? You can find out on the internet by going on www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html

Have you ever noticed that plants flower earlier or survive bitter winters better on the south side of your house? That is because your house creates a microclimate by protecting that part of the garden from cold / dry winter winds and letting the sun's energy into the soil and house. The brick / concrete and other materials slowly radiate the day's heat into the night.

Do you know the difference between a sucker and a water sprout? The sucker is a stem that grows out of the soil near the base of a tree or shrub. A multi-stemmed shrub naturally spreads this way. Suckers that grow from a single trunk tree can indicate root disturbance. Water sprouts are young whip like stems that shoot straight up from mature branches. Often produced in response to over pruning or some other source of stress, water sprouts often spoil the appearance of a plant and need to be pruned out.

Remember to water correctly. The roots need the water, not the leaves. If you are using a soaker hose or drip irrigation, place it where the water is needed. If you are hand watering, make sure that you water deeply.

If you get pinesap on pruners, hands, shears use Crisco lard it will help remove the sap.

Here is a good way to rejuvenate an old multi-stemmed shrub that you might have in your garden. It is simple and easy to do. Remove one-third of the largest, oldest stems at ground level in late winter or early spring. The following spring, prune out another third of the remaining old stems and thin the new growth by removing all but a few vigorous shoots. The next spring, if you remove all remaining old wood and thin out the new shoots, then the shrub should be back in shape.

It can be very irritating trying to dig a hole with a dull squared off shovel. Here are some helpful tips: Clean the blades to remove rust or other debris, clamp the shovel in a vise with the blade facing up and toward you, start at one edge using an eight to ten inch long bastard file and push it toward the center of the shovel while holding it at a forty-five degree angle. Work your way to the tip of the shovel then move to the other side and repeat the process.

If you dislike the winter blues, give yourself a treat. Have an early spring inside your home. In the fall, purchase tulips or daffodils and pot them up, (planting instructions

will be on the package) keep them outside or in the garage for several weeks to help stimulate root growth and give them the cold necessary to “force” blooming once you have roots place the pot in a sunny window sill. This will trick the bulbs into thinking that spring has arrived and will start to grow and then flower. Their cheerful flowers will bring color and dreams of spring inside. Once spring arrives, you can always plant them outside to bring happiness to your garden next year.

Find out the first and last date frost date by checking www.farmersalmanac.com

Winterize your power equipment. Take care of the gasoline. Old gas can cause gunk to build up in the carburetor and fuel lines, so add fuel preservative or run the engine until it is empty. Change the oil to keep it from corroding the inside of the engine. Remove the spark plug and spray WD-40 into the cylinder to absorb any moisture that may have gotten into the pistons. Crank the engine a few times then replace the spark plug. If you have a riding lawn mower remove the battery, it will lose its charge over the winter. Make sure you bring it out of the cold. Add grease to any rust.



It's Great For Your Garden!

Have you heard? ***After considering all forms of mulch, experts are declaring leaves are among the best mulching material and they should be used wherever possible as either a mulch or compost.*** Gardeners in our area, who are using leaf mulch and compost, are extolling the results and great interest is being shown internationally from Europe, Africa and the Far East. Our crews, at Plant A Plant, have been installing leaf mulch for quite sometime and we have found it to be very beneficial for your plants and more efficient for you, our customers.

For years, we have been sharing with you the advantages of using “nature’s best fertilizer.” Leaf mulch from shredded leaves of deciduous trees provides nutrients as well as protection since leaves contain calcium, magnesium, potash, phosphorus, nitrogen and many trace elements. Leaves act as a beneficial soil amendment as they decompose.

Leaf mulch is from the fall leaf drop, while double-shredded bark is from trees cut from pulp or lumber. Leaf mulch can be installed wherever you have been using double-shredded hard. Its’ dissimilarities to bark include that it can be used yearly and up to twice a year to freshly rejuvenate mulched areas of your landscape. In addition, it retains its dark color longer, since it turns into topsoil, as opposed to double-shredded bark, which bleaches in one growing season.

There are several factors to be considered when selecting mulch: cost; availability; appearance; physical effect on the soil; chemical reaction; durability; combustibility; freedom of weed seeds; possibility of disease or pests through its use; and its rate of decomposition. Leaf mulch definitely measures up: it is economical; available; it richly enhances planting areas; chemically it is unequalled; it holds moisture well; the quality of the material used is more controlled and therefore it does not usually harbor diseases or pests; and it decomposes naturally and readily.

The earthworms love it! Organic gardener/writer, Howard Garrett, explains the presence of lots of earthworms shows that nature is at work and has filled the soil with life; that means balance; and that means the soil drains better and holds just the right amount of water for a longer period of time. I can’t believe how big the number and size of the earthworms discovered at customers’ homes with leaf mulch.

November Gardening Checklist



- ② **Continue to Plant Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs**
- ② **Plant Bulbs in Your Landscape** – there is still time before the ground freezes!
- ② **For Winter Interest Plant - TREES:** Chinese dogwood, evergreens, Harry Lauder’s walking stick, hawthorn, Japanese maple, Japanese flowering Apricot, Lace-Bark Pine, Paper Bark Maple, Red Oak, Serviceberry, Stewartia, Zelkova. **SHRUBS:** Barberry, Beautyberry, Boxwood, Crape Myrtle, Euonymus, Holly, Mahonia, Nandina, Pyracantha, Red and Yellow Twig Dogwood, Sweetbox, Daphne “Carol Mackie”, Viburnum, Winter-Flowering Jasmine, Bittersweet, Winterberry, Witch-Hazel, Evergreens. **VINES:** Boston Ivy, varying colors of periwinkle **ANNUALS:** Pansies and Primrose.
- ② **Plant Winter Hardy Plants in Window Boxes** Now that summer annuals have faded, continue to enjoy these miniature gardens during the cool months of the year by replanting with viola type Pansies, Ivy, Primrose, Mums and miniature conifers.
- ② **Protect All Trees, Vines, Espaliered Plants, and Climbing Roses from Winter Winds** Check guy wires around newly planted trees to be sure hose sections still cover the supporting wires or ropes so they will not damage tree trunks in windy weather. Secure ties and add more ties to strategic locations on vines, espaliers, and climbing roses, if necessary. Remove stakes on trees that have been in place for one year or more.
- ② **Continue to Watch for BAGWORMS** on evergreens: Leyland cypress, spruce, and arborvitae, pull off by hand and dispose of in a plastic bag; **SCALE** on Euonymus, Lilac, Azalea, Camellia, and Japanese Quince; and **BORER** damage on fruit and nut trees.
- ② **Gypsy Moth in the Egg Stage** From November through April, look for tan, fuzzy patches resembling pieces of a camel-hair coat (one inch long and one half inch wide) attached to trees, rocks, wood piles, fences, lawn furniture and buildings. If you find any, scrape them off and kill them in a jar of alcohol or bleach.
- ② **Cut Back All Perennials** – except those having winter interest. Invert large flowerpots or boxes over semi-hardy perennials
- ② **Keep Leaves Raked from Lawn and Flowerbeds** Shred with your mower until they disappear into the lawn, or use as mulch in planting areas, or add to compost pile.
- ② **Begin Thinking About Your Spring Landscape or additions necessary to fill in seasonal voids.** Plant-A-Plant designers can add outstanding personalized plantings and / or tasteful outdoor rooms that will function as well as the inside of your home while simplifying your life with less fuss and maintenance – this will allow you to spend more time enjoying the natural splendor of your garden.
- ② **TREES** During the winter months protect the trunks and limbs of young, thin-barked trees, sycamore, yellowwood and beech, from south west disease (it results when the sun warms the southwestern side of the trunk in late afternoon and freezing temperatures occur that night.) The first few winters after their installation, protect these trees by wrapping them with burlap strips or 4” to 6” ADS pipe. Remove by the second or third week of April.

December Gardening Checklist

- ❖ **Plant Bulbs** – as long as the soil is not frozen, you still have time. Plant fragrant varieties near entries to offer an early spring welcome. Narcissus, crocus, colchicum, allium, scilla and fritillaria are alternatives to tulips and daffodils are deer resistant.
- ❖ **Spray Broadleaf Evergreens in Windy Areas with Wilt-Proof** - (an anti-desiccant) to prevent winter moisture loss and injury before temperatures remain at 45° F or below.
- ❖ **Spray Liquid Fence on Plants that the Deer Favor** – Liquid fence works wonders! Use larger hole netting if you net your plants.
- ❖ **Loose Soil may Settle** – Add fill where necessary and grade, especially around foundation so you have drainage away from the house.
- ❖ **Gently Trim Erratic Growth** – on hollies and other evergreens. Limit cutting to mild shaping and thinning being careful not to harm plants. Boxwoods should not be trimmed when temperatures are below 40° F. For safety, never place live arrangements near fireplace, candles, or heat registers.
- ❖ **Winterize Hardy Aquatic Plants** – Hardy water lilies, cattails, sedges and rushes: leave outside in a pond that is a minimum of 18” deep. They can be moved in the spring, but the deep water insulates the plants through the winter. Cut back foliage to reduce leaf build-up in pond. Cold sensitive plants, like tropical water lilies and taro, should be placed inside where temperatures remain at least 50° F. Oxygenators, like fairy moss, *azolla*, place in an aquarium. An aerator may be required, especially if you have fish. A floating heater helps maintain proper oxygen levels. Call Plant A Plant if you need any assistance with the winterization of your water feature.
- ❖ **Garden Accessories and Ornaments** – bring indoors or store under deck. Clean with a soft brush or cloth and a mild detergent so not to damage. Use a white vinegar/water mixture for hard to remove mildew and stains. If containers cannot be moved, cover or invert so water does not collect, freeze and cause breakage.
- ❖ **Un-Planted Beds** – may be turned during winter months to keep soil workable and reduce insect habitation. Remember “crop rotation” especially for vegetables and annuals.
- ❖ **Hand Tools** – Clean and dry well before storing and coat with lubricating oil to prevent rusting. Drain hoses and to avoid kinking and cracking, hang on a hose rack in the garage rather than on one nail or one hook.
- ❖ **Looking for Very Early Spring Blooms?** – Plant dormant sweetbox, Japanese flowering apricot, winter jasmine, witch hazel heath and Christmas rose, snowdrops or early daffodils.



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Pansies and early blooming bulbs planted in fall will give a great spring send-in as well. The “early bloomers” will welcome spring in January / February!

January Gardening Checklist



❄ **Snow Shovel** – can be coated with a “no-stick” cooking spray so the snow will slide right off!

❄ **Do Not Spray Firewood with Insecticides.**

❄ **Do not Shovel** – or blow snow towards plants. This will keep plants from being damaged and water accumulating after snow melts. Let ice melt naturally on plants to avoid breakage. Use **Calcium magnesium acetate as a deicer.**

❄ **Plant Shrubs, Conifers and Plants with Interest** – weather permitting, in the winter garden: white forsythias, Cornelian cherry, beautyberry, nandina, ‘Sparkleberry’ holly, sweetbox, winter flowering jasmine, and wintersweet. Do not plant anything in 4” pots or smaller.

❄ **Thin Apple and Peach Trees** - with weak, non-productive growth, to allow sunlight to reach ripening fruit. Wait until late winter or early spring to prune canker-prone trees, such as: Bradford and Callory pears, cherry, plum, maple, spruce, willow, poplar and conifers.

❄ **Avoid Walking on Grass or Ground Cover While Frozen** – They are brittle and easily damaged.

❄ **Ice** – Here is an alternative – use a fertilizer spreader to apply sand, sawdust or kitty litter on driveways and walkways instead of salt or de-icing compounds, particularly near trees, shrubs or perennials. Red maples, tulip poplars, white pines, oaks, Norway and white spruces are particularly sensitive to salt (so are black walnuts–get my drift?).

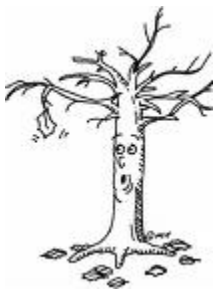
❄ **Keep Leaves Raked** - from lawn. This provides good light and ventilation to the lawn. Leaves can be added to beds for protection against winter’s fluctuating temperatures and nutrients.

❄ **Create a Safe Haven for the Birds** – Offer seeds, berries and fresh water. Birds will remain and devour tree-boring pests and other insects during spring and summer. Place feeders at different levels and with a variety of seeds to encourage diversified species. Store seeds in air-tight containers to keep fresh. Provide shallow water containers in sunny locations to discourage freezing. Clean and change water frequently. American beautyberry, holly, nandina, pyracantha, common juniper, creeping wintergreen, Eastern hemlock, Northern bayberry and cedar are some of their favorites!

❄ **House Plants** – For winter care, keep in cooler areas, away from heat sources, but near sunny windows. Keep sensitive plants away from windows at night and during cold winter days. Check for bugs. Pinch off irregular growth to promote bushy plants and maintain desired shape. Apply comfortably warm water to avoid root rot, and check each plant individually before watering.

February Gardening Checklist

- ❄ **Cut Back** – ornamental grasses, liriope, buddleia, althea, beautyberry, butterfly bush, caryopteris, clematis, hybrid spiraea and other woody plants with summer blooms.
- ❄ **Looking for Very Early Spring Blooms?** Plant dormant Sweetbox, Japanese flowering Apricot, Witch hazel, winter flowering heath and Christmas rose, snowdrops or early daffodils.
- ❄ **Prune Roses** – while in dormancy.
- ❄ **Prune Crape Myrtle** – no earlier than the end of February to avoid plant stress.



- Wait until March to avoid breaking the plant's dormancy if temperatures fluctuate between the 20's and the 60's.
- ❄ **To Control Diseases** – prune watersprouts on dogwoods growing from large branches or the trunk. Only prune suckers or broken limbs from spring bloomers. Deciduous trees: either prune before the 10th or wait until leaves appear in spring before removing damaged branches. Remove by cutting several inches below the injury, above the node, where the bud forms.
 - ❄ **Want to Make Maintenance Easier?** – Reduce the “hard to mow” places by eliminating acute angles in beds and borders. Combine single trees or shrubs into a large planting area connected with ground covers. Blend evergreen and deciduous ground cover. Install a soaker hose or irrigation when planting ground cover around trees so ground cover does not take up all the water. Extend beds around trees to their drip lines. This helps the trees grow faster and decreases your chance encounters with branches.
 - ❄ **Dispose of Un-Needed Gardening Chemicals** – and containers according to the label directions. Do not pour down the drain or throw in the yard. This will protect the water supply. Call your local county office for proper disposal. Please remember always store chemicals in a shed, away from the house. Buy the least toxic chemicals when you shop and remember that organic does not always mean least toxic.

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December 15th to February 28th, 2010

*Completion of these Projects
is Dependent on Weather*

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SHRUBS (under 15 feet)

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FLAGSTONE PATIOS on STONE DUST

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USUALLY MAINTAINED

Please note:

This discount does not apply to any existing discounts, maintenance contracts, mortared patios, or any other work performed by sub-contractors.