

Fall/Winter Care Tips for Trees and Shrubs



Thank you for choosing AB Hardscape and Design for your Landscaping needs. Please use the following as a resource to help you extend the success of your landscape. Should you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Late Season Watering-

Good winter care starts with thorough watering, especially for newly planted trees, large shrubs and evergreens. Plants benefit from a thorough, late-season watering for several reasons. It acts as insulation as the plant adjusts to dormancy and colder temperatures. It also supports root growth. Even though you can't see any active plant growth above ground, there is significant root growth below the soil surface! Evergreen and Broadleaf Evergreen (*Hollies, Boxwoods, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Cherry Laurels, etc.*) can suffer from "Winter Burn." This occurs when cold winds draw moisture from the leaves, causing them to turn brown and die. Winter Burn injury is more prominent when soil is dry or frozen and the plant cannot draw enough moisture from the soil to replenish moisture loss in the leaves. Thorough, late-season watering can help reduce Winter Burn injury. For more tender plants in exposed sites, **anti-desiccants** are available.

For trees, large shrubs, evergreens or broadleaf evergreens installed within the year, water one last time for the season before temperatures plummet to sub-freezing or the ground freezes (Generally October). *(This only applies to trees, large shrubs, evergreens and broadleaf evergreens. It is not necessary for smaller, deciduous shrubs or perennials. Note: Should Fall be exceptionally wet, natural rainfall may be sufficient).*

Fall is for Planting! - Not only is it a great time to plant trees and shrubs or sod a lawn, fall is also the time of year to plant your **spring bulbs**, such as Daffodils, Crocus, Tulips, etc. Do this generally before Thanksgiving or as long as the ground is not frozen. Tender bulbs, such as Dahlias, Cannas and Elephant Ears should be dug up and brought indoors after they are blackened by the first hard frost. Clean and store them in a cool, dry area.

Fall Clean-Up - Fall is a great time to get a jump on Spring clean-up work load and may benefit more than you think. Removing leaves and debris from your landscape beds can help reduce disease and fungus that may grow under these layers. Should you have any diseased plants that lose needles or leaves, physically removing fallen leaves from the area. This will help reduce disease by breaking the cycle of overwintering pathogens. During this time dormant pruning is a good practice for trees and shrubs. *Be careful what you prune in the fall. Do not prune spring blooming shrubs and trees. These include Magnolias, Dogwoods, Flowering Cherries, Redbuds, Forsythia, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Bottlebrush, Pieris, Lilacs, etc. Wait to prune tender shrubs, such as Butterfly Bushes, until March/April.

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information, let us know.
We are here to help!

