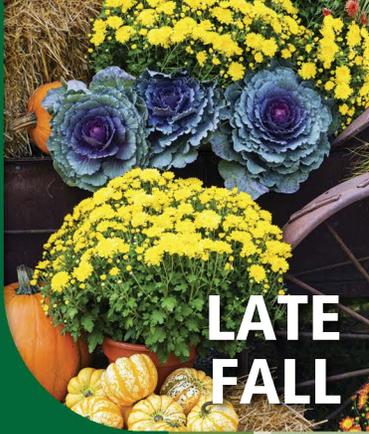




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## DON'T FORGET YOUR EVERGREENS!

We often think of evergreens as hardy, stable plants in need of little maintenance. While this is generally true, evergreens are especially susceptible to stress and damage brought on by the extremes of winter.

Drying out, or desiccation, is the evergreen's biggest threat as dry air and high winds extract moisture from the needles and leaves and freezing temperatures reduce the amount of water available to the roots.

The common signs of drying out are discolored needles and leaves, especially on the side facing the wind. Luckily, preventative measures are relatively easy and can go a long way to reducing damage.

Be sure to water your evergreens thoroughly before the ground freezes and again during warmer days throughout the winter months. A fresh layer of mulch will keep moisture in the soil and maintain even soil temperatures.

Anti-desiccant sprays can also prevent winter burn, coating evergreen needles with an organic, waxy coating to seal in moisture.

By taking just a few, easy steps this fall, you can ensure that your evergreen trees and shrubs stay healthy and happy this winter.

## A One-Two Punch:

### PRUNING AND FERTILIZING YOUR TREES AND SHRUBS FOR SUSTAINED BEAUTY AND HEALTH

Take a look around your home's landscape. Which elements would you say require the least amount of maintenance? If you said your trees and shrubs, you're probably right.

Trees and shrubs don't need nearly as much attention as a lawn or a flowerbed, yet they are often the most valuable parts of any landscape. To keep your largest investments healthy and strong, they need two important tasks completed this fall.

#### 1 PRUNING



As the leaves fall from the trees, it will become much easier to see where pruning is needed. Proper pruning is essential for newer plantings, and more mature trees can benefit greatly as well, especially if the plant has suffered any damage from summer storms or was not pruned early in its growth.

By making pruning cuts when the plant is dormant, the fresh wounds will be exposed for a shorter time before spring growth starts the healing process. Dormant pruning also can help prevent certain disease and pest problems that crop up when pruning occurs during the wrong time of year.

Pruning promotes ideal growing patterns by removing weak or crowded limbs and creating a properly shaped crown. While pruning of younger plantings can easily be done without specialized equipment, it is always best to call a trained professional if larger trees need to be cut back.

#### 2 FERTILIZATION

To stay happy and healthy, your trees and shrubs also need an extra meal this time of year. Just like your lawn, the larger elements of your landscape are hungry too, and a round of fertilization will give them a head start going into winter and spring.

Again, younger plantings have a greater need when it comes to fertilizer, with mature trees requiring much less supplemental nutrition if cared for correctly. Late fall is a great time to feed your trees and shrubs, as the roots are still actively absorbing nutrients, allowing the plants to store them up over winter. When spring comes, those nutrient reserves will be used to create new growth.

Since they need so little attention, why not give your trees and shrubs what they need to maintain their place as your landscape's most valuable members. After all, they don't ask for much!

