

# SPRING CLEANING PAYS DIVIDENDS

Spring cleaning isn't just about your house. Lawns and landscaping also need TLC to prepare them for the growing season. A thorough spring clean-up readies your lawn and landscaping for summer, and can save you from headaches later in the year. Many aspects of this work may demand more time and energy or experience than you have available. If that's the case, call in a landscape professional to reduce the burden.

Spring clean-up begins early with cleaning up litter that has collected over the winter, and raking up dead grass and leaves on your lawn and flower beds; edge flower beds and move the leaves and other organic debris to your compost pile.



Mulching early is one of the best things you can do for your landscape beds because it creates a protective barrier around plants and bare soil. Two to four inches of new mulch helps retain moisture and can contribute to soil health.

Getting a head start on the yard and garden in spring ensures less work over the course of the season. Done correctly, spring yard cleaning will prepare your property for a summer of enjoyable outdoor activities.

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) is recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture, and was among the first to regard landscape architecture as a profession and a fine art. Most people know him as the designer of Central Park in New York City and the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, but Olmsted's importance to landscape architecture goes much farther.



Perhaps more than any other person, Olmsted affected the way America looks. As a champion of the City Beautiful movement, which utilized political and economic structures to create beautiful, spacious, and orderly cities that contained healthy open spaces, Olmsted designed major urban parks across the nation.

From the green spaces that help define our cities and towns, to suburban life, to protected wilderness areas, Olmsted left the imprint of his genius. Out of his deep love for the land and his strong social commitment, Frederick Law Olmsted left a legacy that Americans enjoy today.

## PROPER PRUNING IS ALL ABOUT PROPER TIMING

Most trees and shrubs benefit from annual pruning. It keeps them in shape, gets rid of dead and diseased wood and encourages new growth. But not all trees and shrubs should be pruned early, especially some of the flowering ones, which may be about to blossom.

When is the proper time to prune flowering trees and shrubs? Part of the answer depends on whether the time of flowering is in the early spring or later in the season.

As a general rule of thumb, prune flowering trees and shrubs immediately after flowering.

Early spring bloomers such as dogwood, forsythia, flowering crabapple and cherry, magnolia and azalea should be pruned immediately after flowering in late spring or early summer.

In general, trees and shrubs such as crape myrtle, Bradford pear, knock out roses, spirea, and some varieties of hydrangea that flower after the end of June should be pruned in late winter to early spring when they are dormant.

If you're not sure about pruning or have trees on your property bigger than you can handle, call in an expert.

