

PROPER PLANNING PRODUCES PERFECT PLANTS

A look into winter gardening.

The winter months are the time for planning and designing. Take time to plan and sketch any areas you plan to landscape, add plants, or create an exterior living space this year. Follow this plan and begin to develop ideas, order plants or schedule a free consult with our office in order to jump start the spring season.

The following is a comprehensive list of tasks that should be completed prior to the end of March.

- " Identify any winter damaged, broken, or rubbing branches that need to be pruned. These problems are easily identified and corrected when plants have no leaves on the branches.
- " Wait to prune early flowering trees and shrubs until after they bloom.
- " Prune summer and fall flowering trees and shrubs as most bloom off of current season branch growth.
- " Inspect your trees and shrubs for over-wintering scale insects and apply a dominant oil or safer soap to affected areas.
- " Remove excess mulch from planting beds, and replace with new organic mulch not exceeding 2" in depth.
- " Cut back ornamental grasses to approximately 2-3" off the ground .
- " Transplant any plant material you would like to move in your garden while it is still dormant.
- " Divide perennials and ornamental grasses before they reach 2-3" in height.
- " Begin to fertilize woody and evergreen shrubs if they were not fall fertilized using Holly Tone or Tree Tone.
- " You can begin to plant woody plant material when the weather permits and soils are not frozen.
- " Apply a crabgrass pre-emergence to turf areas to prevent summer crabgrass in the lawn.
- " Begin thinking about designing hardscapes such as patios, and retaining walls for summer usage.

Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today! The above mentioned tips should start your next season with two green thumbs up. Consult our office to discuss how we can meet the needs of your exterior living space.