

2012

WINTER EDITION OF...

Timely Tree Tips

2012

A NEW YEAR IS UPON US

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2011 Re-cap
- Changing things up
- 2012 Proposals
- Turf Tips
- Wind Storms

From what I remember, 2011 started out really dry. Barely any snow fell during the winter and temperatures were fairly warm. Winter watering was a must for tree, shrub, lawn and plant survival. Things were looking bleak until May when it rained over 5". In June we had 1.25", in July we got 5.5" and in August we only

got .27" of rain. These "yo-yo" fluctuations in moisture cause a lot of stress for plants. In lawns we saw a lot

of dollar spot and Ascocyta fungus. Trees and shrubs fared pretty well, however,

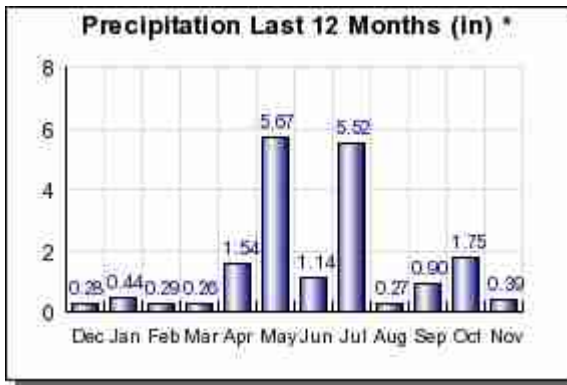
some plants dried up and died over the winter. As summer turned in to fall on the calendar, temperatures remained high and it didn't freeze until almost November. As a result, a surprise snow storm caught the trees with their leaves on and broke branches. Fortunately, it wasn't any worse than it was. We already had three weeks of trim work on the books before the storm. Somehow we managed to put out the fires and stay on top of the other work as well. My thanks go out to our clients who were forced to wait longer than normal, thank you for your patience. Believe me I would rather not have to deal with storm emergencies.

So far we have had some fairly good snow storms this winter providing us

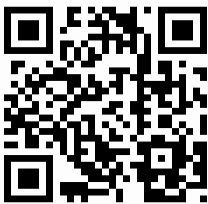


with some moisture. Be sure to winter water south exposed lawn areas, evergreen trees, shrubs and deciduous trees. A good soaking once a month goes a long way in preventing winter desiccation/drought injury.

Kevin Jones



2011 Precipitation Records



2012 GROWING SEASON IS UPON US!

Chances are it has arrived in your mail box. You may have even got that friendly reminder call. Right now is the time to approve your 2012 Plant Health Care proposal! Several services are being done right now! Spring spruce gall sprays, Elm bark beetle, Ips beetle sprays for pines and spruce, Systemic soil drenches and injections, Dormant oil sprays, deep root fertilizing and the First lawn applications. As spring gets closer even more services will come on line. You have probably heard this before but for many of the applications we do there is a window of time we must hit in order for applications to be effective. Waiting until the last minute to approve your proposal can sometimes be too late for the treatment your trees, shrubs and lawn need. If you have any apple, crab apple or hawthorns that need trimming we have to get it done before mid April. So give us a call, put your work on order and we will take it from there!

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IS IT TIME FOR SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN THE LANDSCAPE?

Nothing lasts forever and nothing lives forever either. Periodically, we need to look at our landscapes to see if there are ways to improve what we have. Over grown shrubs, too much turf to water, expand tree, shrub and flower beds? If you think it may be time for changes in your landscape give us a call.

Gale Force Winds Blown Down Trees

It seems like we have had more than our fair share of ripping wind storms this winter. As such, many people had trees blow down or break due to the strong winds. For the most part spruce trees have seen the brunt of the damage. In general, they have a rather shallow root system and a ton of foliage that catches the wind like a sail. Dry soil exacerbates the problem. When the soil is moist, not soggy, the water helps act like a glue, adhering soil particles and roots together. Thus making it harder to blow trees over. Winter watering has its advantages. The only deciduous trees we have seen blow down were those with compromised root systems i.e. trees planted in less than ideal areas. Proper tree trimming helps reduce wind damage potential.



The Lawn Care Corner

With spring coming around soon (hopefully), our thoughts turn to getting the lawn ready for the season. If you have lawns with a north exposure chances are portions of the lawn have been covered with snow most all winter. Once the snow finally melts don't be surprised to see snow mold in the grass. Snow mold is a fungus disease that is found on turf that has been buried by snow for long periods of time. The best cure is to fluff up matted grass with the leaf rake once the snow melts off. This helps with getting air to the matted turf so it can dry out. Areas that died off to the disease usually always come back to life once things warm up.

Beware of the "lawn squads" wanting to *Power Rake* your lawn. Power raking does little good to your lawn. In fact it beats the day lights out of the grass crowns and shallow roots which can cause them to dry out and delay the greening up process. But what about the brown grass you might ask? Don't worry about it. Once the grass starts growing it covers it up and eventually the brown grass blades dry up, fall apart, decompose and are returned to the soil to release the nutrients they contain. Aeration helps expedite the process as well as relieves soil compaction, allows air to enter the soil and helps break down thatch. The best time to aerate is after your sprinkler system is on.

Spring lawn chores include: Fertilizer and Pre-emergent herbicides for crabgrass March/April and aeration in late April or May.

We have Firewood for sale \$200.00/cord Stock up now!



This cottonwood tree blew down in a recent wind storm. Strange? This tree has been dead for years! The root system has been decomposed into compost, the bark has been falling off, no leaves and yet no one seemed to notice it. At least until it fell on the house! One thing is for certain in life; If a tree grows up and dies it will eventually fall down. Gravity always prevails!
 "You should have called me sooner"