



SPRING LANDSCAPING TIPS

Whether this is your first home or you are a seasoned gardener, here are a few tips and reminders to get your garden off on the right path this year. If you have further questions, feel free to give us a call or stop in.

Spring Cleanup: Remove leaves and debris. Cut back any stems, seedpods, and cut ornamental grasses back to encourage new growth.

Spring Flowering Bulbs: Be careful during cleanup not to damage any emerging bulbs. Remove the flowers after they have bloomed; however, let the foliage turn brown naturally before cutting it back.

Pruning Spring Flowering Shrubs: Shrubs that bloom in the spring set their buds in the fall. They should be pruned after the blooms have faded, usually in late spring or early summer. Examples would include Lilacs, Forsythia, Azalea, Magnolia, and Rhododendron.

Pruning Non-Spring Flowering Shrubs: First, prune the dead out of non-spring flowering shrubs. Next, remove any crossing or rubbing branches. Then prune for shape. Examples would include Dogwoods, Burning Bush, Spirea, and Viburnum.

Pruning Roses: Roses need special attention. Shrub roses can be cut back by one third. Floribunda, grandiflora, and hybrid tea roses need pruning to remove dead or broken canes and to help improve air circulation through the center.

Pruning Trees: Prune trees for proper form and to promote tree health. Remove dead branches; remove any crossing or rubbing branches and remove sprouts at the base. Improper pruning can damage the health of a tree, so contact one of our licensed arborists for proper pruning techniques.

Pre-Emergent and Fertilizing: When cleanup is complete and before mulching, apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent weed growth. For best results, you can also add a slow release granular fertilizer to your landscape beds. This helps with plant health and flowering. Apply these products before mulching to get them closer to the target area and to keep kids and pets safe. Always follow label directions closely.

Mulching: Top-dress your existing landscape beds so that mulch maintains a depth of about 3 inches. Avoid piling mulch around the base of plants which can lead to poor plant health. Install mulch rings around the base of trees in turf so that the roots are cooled and kept moist. This also prevents mechanical damage to the trunk.

Additional Resources: Consult our arborists about tree stakes and wraps. These are valuable tools when needed, but can cause serious damage if left on too long. You can consult our maintenance department for estimates on doing the above mentioned chores for you. And you can consult with one of our landscape designers to make changes or additions to your outdoor living area.