

Making a Good First Impression

FALL YARD MAINTENANCE

We hear the buzzword “curb appeal” so often that sometimes it just fades into the background noise. In short, curb appeal is the **FIRST IMPRESSION!**

In this article we have a basic helpful checklist for closing out the growing season, preparing your yard and trees for next year and the colder months ahead.

Landscape Beds and Gardens

- ◆ **LANDSCAPE BEDS** – Tidy up landscape beds by removing leaves, debris and any dead plants.
- ◆ **GARDENS** – Summer is over so clean out the dead flowers and plants and store away any staking and netting materials.
- ◆ **FLOWERS** – Now is the time to plant bulbs for spring flowers like daffodils and tulips.
- ◆ **ADD MULCH** – This freshens the appearance of your landscape beds and also protects plant root systems.
- ◆ **PLANTER POT GARDENS** – Clean out any dead plants and store them away and out of view for the season.



Lawns and Yards

- ◆ **LEAVES** – Rake the leaves so your yard can breathe, absorb nutrients and establish a stronger root system.
- ◆ **CUT THE GRASS** – A final mow is important for a good appearance, yard health and a deterrent to pests.
- ◆ **AERATE YOUR YARD** – Wikipedia defines aeration as “the process of using mechanized equipment to either puncture the soil with spikes (spike aeration) or remove approximately 1" x 2" cores of soil from the ground (core aeration). Aeration may be overlooked when trying to restore a lawn but is vital to bring it back to health. It improves drainage and reduces puddles formation.”
- ◆ **DETHATCH** – Dictionary.com defines thatch as “a tightly bound layer of dead grass, including leaves, stems, and roots, that builds up on the soil surface at the base of the living grass of a lawn.”
- ◆ **SEED** – Evenly spread grass seed over your lawn, commonly referred to as “over seeding”. The young grass helps your lawn look thick and healthy.
- ◆ **NUTRIENTS** – Consider fertilizing your lawn, shrubs and trees to add vital nutrients and promote health.
- ◆ **APPLY WEED CONTROL** – An application of broadleaf weed control to your grass will help eliminate spring weeds like dandelions and white clover.



Trees

- ◆ **INSPECT** – Look at your trees, bushes and shrubs and prune off any dead branches. Make sure street signs are in full view (especially stop signs).
- ◆ **LEANING TREE STAKES** – Remove any tree stakes and all the hardware associated with them if the stakes have fallen over, are leaning or are no longer serving their purpose.
- ◆ **NIP IT IN THE BUD** – Prune water sprouts or water shooters, they are the branches that sprout at the bottom of the tree and rob the upper branches of valuable nutrients and water.

To close out this article we encourage you to take the time, walk around the exterior of your home and address any of the miscellaneous objects that periodically appear in the front of your home (simply through everyday living).

TO NAME A FEW:

- ◆ Newspapers delivered and left on the driveway
- ◆ Solicitations left at the front door and on mailboxes
- ◆ Bags, bags and more bags of..... mulch, sand, dirt, concrete....
- ◆ Flower pots...empty, falling over
- ◆ Garden hoses
- ◆ Snow shovels
- ◆ Trash cans
- ◆ Solar landscape lighting – unmatched, falling over

A few minutes of your time this autumn is worth it to make a good impression. THANK YOU!

