

Across The Lawn

A Quarterly Newsletter
for
H & R Lawn and Landscape Customers

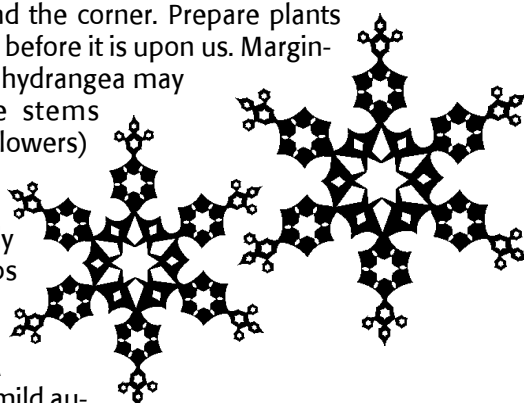
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Protect Tender Plants for Winter

Although the weather has been mild so far this season, be assured that change is just around the corner. Prepare plants for cold and wet weather before it is upon us. Marginally hardy plants such as hydrangea may be root hardy but the stems (which form next years' flowers) may not survive a cold dry winter in our area. The stems and roots of newly planted trees and shrubs are more susceptible to severe cold in their first years than later in life. A bitter cold spell after our mild autumn can shatter the cells of woody plants that haven't hardened off yet. Deep in winter, cold dry wind can suck the life from conifers and broad leafed evergreens like rhododendrons. Sunny spells can cause trouble too, evaporating remaining moisture from needles and leaves while roots are locked in frozen ground. Most hardy perennials could survive winter easily tucked under an insulating blanket of snow. But cold conditions with little snow can expose marginal plants to nature's full force, killing them. In soil with poor drainage, crowns may rot while the freeze-thaw cycles of spring can literally heave plants from the ground. There are three simple steps you can take to ensure survival of hydrangeas, broad leafed evergreens and newly planted trees and woody shrubs.



WATER, MULCH and SHELTER – Water deeply before the ground freezes. Recently transplanted evergreens can be sprayed with an anti-transpirant to seal the tiny openings in their leaves and retain moisture. After the ground freezes, mulch heavily with shredded leaves or ground bark. Pine boughs from the Christmas tree make an excellent airy mulch to protect from sun and winter wind.

Plants in need of special attention can be tucked into a seasonal "shelter" ranging from glass cloches covered with pine boughs to loose burlap wrapping secured by stakes. Mulch heavily around the base of the plant.

In spring, don't be in a big hurry to remove wrappings or mulch. Early harbingers of spring are encouraging, but more icy nights are still ahead. A good rule of green thumb is to wait until the first of the daffodils arrival in April. Ideally, the wraps should come off at the start of a stretch of cloudy weather with grey skies to welcome the plants back to the real world. Removing the wraps and mulch requires even less work than putting them on and it is work filled with the promise of new beginnings.

Residential Landscapes Grown in America



After the tragic events of September 11, our customers have been telling us that they want to be able to "vacation in their own backyard." Especially this year, while world events settle down, lots of folks are turning to their personal landscape to provide peace, solace and recreational space for their families and friends.

If you've been thinking about making your landscape more user-friendly, give us a call. We can provide designs for pools, decks, flower gardens, water gardens, even vegetable gardens. Foundation planting, tree planting and landscape/security lighting are at the top of the list for yard beautification.

See our ads in Kansas City Magazine and Kansas City Home and Garden Magazine to get some ideas for your American Landscape.

H & R Lawn and Landscape
We Make it all Work!

913-897-9705 H & R Lawn & Landscape

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