



MARCH

March Mission....Map Out Your Landscape Projects (Clean-up) 3, 2, 1 blast off!

- ❑ “Walk about” the yard and garden. **Assess** the winter damage and spring needs. Prioritize and make your “to do” list.
- ❑ **Replant** any perennials that have heaved out of the ground during the winter months.
- ❑ **Clean-up** debris, leaves, etc. that is piled up in areas around bulbs and perennials. Try to do this on a cloudy day so that tender, pale growth is not burned.
- ❑ **Rake** lawn areas, removing leaves, twigs, debris and matted grass.
- ❑ **Cut back** ornamental grasses and other perennials that were left up for winter interest before new growth begins. Hints: Tie up large bunches of ornamental grass before cutting them to make it easier and more time efficient! Electric hedge shears work well for cutting large ornamental grasses.

March Pruning Tips:

- Fruit trees should be pruned while dormant.
- Spring blooming plants (Forsythia, Rhododendron, Weigela, and Lilac) should be pruned immediately AFTER flowering.
- Summer flowering shrubs should be pruned before they leaf out.
 - Panicle Hydrangeas (Limelight, Quick Fire, Little Lime, Vanilla Strawberry, Strawberry Sundae, Bobo, etc.) can be cut back by one third to one half. For best results, make a 45 degree cut approximately ¼ inch above a healthy bud. Choose a bud that’s angled away from center of the plant to help avoid crossing, crowded branches.
 - Bigleaf (macrophylla) Hydrangeas (Bloomstruck, Endless Summer, Twist & Shout, Blushing Bride, etc.) depend on twig dieback. If there is no dieback, just prune out dead or lightly prune to shape. If there is a lot of twig dieback, stem can be cut down to live tissue or 4-5”.
 - Beautyberry may be cut back to approximately 6-10 inches tall.
 - Most Spireas can be cut back to a few inches. (Bridal Wreath is an exception to this rule.)
 - Shrub Roses (Double Knockout, Knockout, Drift, Easy Elegance, etc.) should be pruned when the Forsythia blooms. For best results, make a 45 degree cut above a healthy (green) bud, angled away from center of plant. Newly planted roses can be cut back to 6-10” while established larger plants can be cut by on half to two thirds.
- ❑ Plants that are prized for their fruit (Viburnum, Crabapple, Hawthorn) should be pruned after the fruit drops.
- ❑ Avoid pruning Oaks and Elms from Mid-April through Mid-July.

Check out our quality, pruning tools (Felco & Snips) that are staff tested and approved!