

January 16, 2013

Shrubs:

- Flowering shrubs as, forsythia, weigela, deutzia, lilac, can be shaped in the winter if you do not care about its flowers blooming this spring. If you do care about these flowers, then prune these shrubs after they have bloomed. ONLY prune when the temperature is above 32 degrees.
- If your flowering shrubs were not fed this past October, then feed them with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub fertilizer](#) in early spring regardless of your pruning schedule.

Lawn:

- You should pre-apply gypsum to areas of your lawn that you anticipate will be exposed to snow mixed with salt. Also, treat the lawn areas along side where ice melters will be used (i.e near drive ways and sidewalks). Repeat these gypsum applications in early spring to avoid damage from the salt.

Winter Tips:

- Spray snow shovels, snow blades, and discharge chutes of snow blowers, and impellers of snow blowers with *Silicone* spray so that snow will not stick to these pieces of equipment.
- To increase traction on snowy and icy areas, apply coarse, sharp sand.
- Make sure pond deicer and bird bath warmers are working.

House plants:

- Continue feeding house plants with [Seamate](#). Add one tablespoon of vinegar once a month when growing Citrus, jasmine, or gardenia plants to keep the pH down.
- Do not overwater house plants especially Christmas cactus, African violets, Jade, Chinese evergreen, and orchids.
- Houseplants that need to be re-potted should be re-potted in late February.
- Continue removing spent amaryllis flowers. Remove each flower after it has died. Then after all flowers have died on that stem, remove the entire stem. Do not cut leaves, let them grow. Use *Seamate* every time you water your amaryllis.
- Watch for mealybugs and aphids on indoor plants. Use [Bonide Systemic House Plant Insect Control](#) to control these insects.
- Mites can be controlled by using [Pure spray Green](#).

Potted primroses are being sold at this time. If you purchase one, be aware that this plant will most likely not be able to survive indoors.

Potted forced tulips and hyacinth bought now are not worth planting after blooming. They will not re-bloom the following year when planted in the garden.

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