

Before



and After



"Let us give nature a chance, she knows her business better than we do"
Montaigne

Please send newsletter requests, questions and topics to designingeden@charter.net. To receive this newsletter send one box of milk chocolate (Nuts and caramels only, no creams) with your contact information to the address listed above.

Garden Calendar

October: Start planting spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils.

Apply winter mulch around tender plants before first frost.

A great time to complete a final weeding of your perennial beds is after your perennials have died back to the ground.

Water broad leaved evergreens every two weeks until the ground is frozen. The last two winters we've seen major dessication damage to broad leaved evergreens like Holly and Boxwood because they had less than adequate moisture before the ground froze.

Protect your broad leaved evergreens from winter dessication by applying an anti-transpirant.

Begin spraying plant material prone to deer browsing with a repellent. Repellex is a good choice.

November: Wrap any plant prone to snow or animal damage with netting/burlap.

Cut back perennials if they are not going to provide winter interest.

December: Bring in garden hoses.

Put a gas stabilizer in power equipment and run for 10 minutes or run the tank dry. Change spark plug, oil and filters.

Re-apply deer repellents and anti-transpirants every 2 months when temperatures are above 40 degrees.



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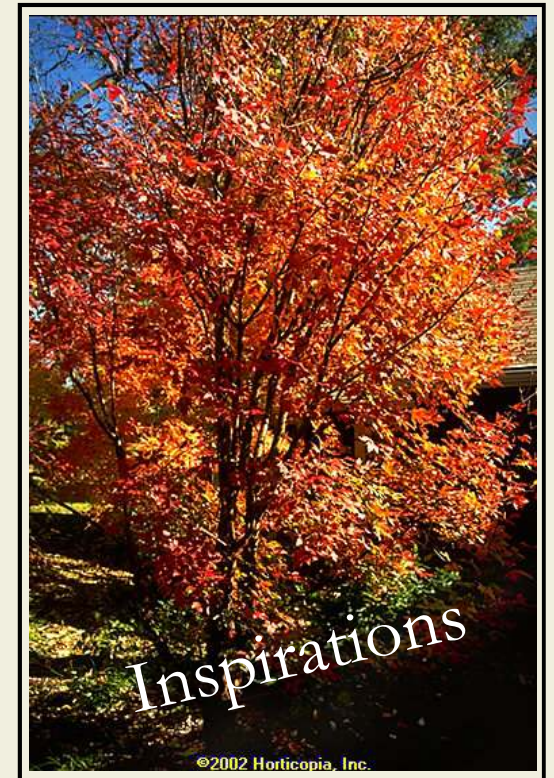
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Greetings from Richard



With winter fast approaching, the 'Hot' topic around the water cooler these days must be our current oil and gas prices. Never has those 'Pay at the Pump' stickers been so literal. The good news is that gas in the U.S. continues to remain far cheaper than most other countries throughout Europe, South America and Canada. Gas prices in England recently spiked to \$10 a gallon and our neighbors to the north are paying over \$4 a gallon. And what about home heating oil? The Schipul's locked in this year's oil price at \$2.18. Not too bad from what I hear, but a far cry from the \$1.04 we secured 2 years ago or the \$1.59 we paid last year. If you're considering an alternate fuel source for heating your house this winter due to the ever rising oil prices, try wood. We are in a new house this winter and we will be giving it a try. We've hooked up a wood burning stove in the basement. I think of it as the 'poor mans' radiant heat. So far I'm amazed at how efficient wood is as a heat source. It must be the only fuel source that heats five times. It heats when you cut the tree down, when you split it, when you stack it, when you lug it into the house and finally when you burn it. When you look at it that way, each piece of wood keeps you warm for days or if you're like me months. Let's face it. There's a lot of back breaking work that goes into cutting, splitting and burning wood. If I could only figure out how to hook up the stove to my hot water heater, I could afford to take a longer soak in the Jacuzzi tub after a long day of chopping wood.

Richard Schipul

Prepare your plants for winter: Transpiration and desiccation

As New Englanders we are a tough bunch. Living in a true four season climate has its fair share of difficulties. With winter fast approaching it's time to get ready for what Mother Nature will throw our way. Snow, hail and bitter cold are just a few of the things we will deal with in the coming months.

Although temperatures will no doubt get frosty in the coming months and your thoughts turn to the holidays, there are a couple of things which come to mind when considering you landscape and plantings; winterizing your plants.

The current growing season has been a tough one for plants. Plenty of ninety degree days with a prolonged period without a drop of rain. Root damage has undoubtedly occurred because of the lack of moisture in the soil. Most plants will be in a weakened state. As we prepare for the cold months ahead, probably the most overlooked aspect of winterizing is making sure that your plants have enough moisture before the ground freezes.

With winter comes winter winds. When winds occur, plants tend to lose moisture through their foliage. This is called transpiration. Transpiration occurs throughout the year. During the growing season transpiration usually isn't a problem because the plant extracts water from the soil before plant cells die. In the winter, plants continue to lose water through transpiration. Because the ground is frozen, the plant can not uptake the water it needs to sustain plant cell's health. Once the plant uses all it's available water to replace what was lost, desiccation occurs. Desiccation is the injury or death of cells

within leaves. Once that occurs, the plant's once green healthy leaves turn a light brown. Some plants can recover within one growing season by sending out new growth which quickly covers any damage that was done. Others, like Boxwood, could take years to recover. The plants most affected by winter desiccation are broad leaved evergreens: Boxwood, Rhododendron, and Hollies. How do you prevent winter injury? Water broadleaf evergreens before winter. Long deep infrequent waterings are



Boxwood winter damage

more beneficial than shallow frequent waterings. Watering with a sprinkler won't cut it.

Spraying plants with an anti-desiccant will also help. Anti-desiccants are an organic oil based product. When applied to a plant's foliage it will slow transpiration and the effects of the winters drying winds. Anti-desiccants will not work without proper plant moisture. Apply an anti-desiccant in the fall to all broadleaf evergreens. For total protection you will want to re-apply again mid winter because they lose their effectiveness. Another option is to wrap plants with burlap, either individually or in the case of a hedge with a "burlap fence". The burlap will act as a wind break protecting the plant.

Finally, heavy snow and ice can cause damage to certain trees and shrubs by pulling them apart due to the excessive weights. Multi-stemmed trees like Birch, multi-leader evergreens like Arborvitae and dense evergreen shrubs such as Boxwood will benefit from staking, wrapping or tying.

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Plant Pick



Fothergilla is a North American native maturing to 5'. Off white flowers in spring and a beautiful orange fall color make this plant a standout. Nice shape which rarely needs pruning. Deer resistant and easy going. Full sun to partial shade.



FOCAL POINT:

Focal points are an important design element. It's a place where the eye comes to rest. Using a focal point within the garden will also draw people into a garden space. In the picture above the two trees frame the view or focal point of the planter box beyond. It is important to add focal points naturally so that they blend in and is in harmony with it's surroundings.