



AUTUMN 2009
Upper Valley Edition

Green Words

Tree Preservation • Turf & Soil Care • Forestry • Land Enhancement



Two minutes a day.

It certainly doesn't seem like a lot of time—just enough to brush my teeth, or get dressed, or warm up last night's leftovers. But when we're talking about losing two minutes of daylight every day since the summer solstice, this is the month my family truly begins to feel the difference.

Even if some among us felt cheated by the more-rainy-than-average start to summer, the fall forecast is great and there's still plenty of time left for those pre-winter outdoor chores—find inspiration for making the most of your minutes throughout this issue. The responses from our new website feedback page *How Are We Doing?* are forwarded directly to me, and as always, I like to hear from you. How are we doing?

—Will Russell

Preventing the Winter Blues of Your Greenery

Winter extremes of snow, ice and wind, and worst of all, low, low temperatures can take their toll on your landscape. Damage to trees and shrubs is quite common and even turf and groundcovers are vulnerable. After last winter's ice storm many clients asked us what can be done to prevent such severe damage again. As in many other aspects of life, we follow the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

FORTIFY YOUR TREES & SHRUBS

Proper pruning and cabling (when necessary) reduces the damage caused by what a bad winter can throw at us. Thoughtfully pruned shade trees develop strong branch attachments supporting the weight of ice and heavy snow. Hedges with correct taper will shed snow and when necessary, cables and bracing will support an aesthetically attractive but inherently weak leader even when loaded with snow or ice.

Winter winds are very drying, especially for broad-leaf or coniferous evergreen trees and shrubs. We recommend planting only hardy species for our growing zones in the most exposed areas, watering new evergreen

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

plantings adequately in the fall, and mulching annually to insulate the roots. When planting or replacing trees or shrubs choose native and ice resistant species—find more information about this at the *'Consulting and More...'* page of our website: chippersinc.com.

We advise good overall arboricultural practices to maintain the health of your trees and shrubs in the prevention of sun scald or frost cracking—covering the trunks of young trees with wrap can sometimes be helpful, but remember to remove the wrap after the trees leaf out fully in the spring. Keep in mind that a rapid change in temperature is a tree's or shrub's worst enemy and this generally occurs with westerly exposure.

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www.

Q: How does a tree get on the internet?

A: It 'logs-in.'

You can login too! For more tree-mendously funny jokes, and for the most comprehensive information available about tree, turf, soil, land and forest care in northern New England, check out our new website at:

chippersinc.com

Featured Poet:

Emily Dickinson

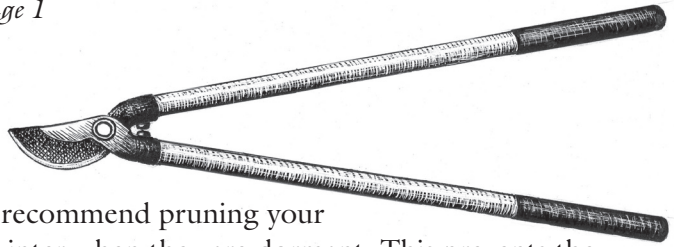


The morns are meeker
than they were,
The nuts are getting brown;
The berry's cheek is plumper,
The rose is out of town.
The maple wears a gayer scarf,
The field a scarlet gown.
Lest I should be old-fashioned,
I'll put a trinket on.

—*Nature 27, Autumn*



—continued from page 1



Our arborists recommend pruning your trees during the winter when they are dormant. This prevents the spread of disease, helps the arborist with increased visibility for form development and disease/hazard detection, and minimizes shock to the tree because of leaf loss. As an added bonus, when the ground is frozen there is minimal damage to lawns, gardens or the forest floor.

Even after doing everything possible to prevent winter damage it sometimes happens. Trees and shrubs that experience moderate storm damage can often make a full recovery over time. When damage occurs, remove broken limbs immediately, and have one of our certified arborists perform crown restoration pruning within one growing season. Our professional arborists also offer pre-winter assessments of your landscape to identify potential problems, and they are available to perform storm damage emergency work at any time.

WINTERIZE YOUR TURF

We recommend mowing your lawn into November if it continues to grow, but lower the blade one notch each week beginning in mid October, with a final cut around 1" in November. The final cut should correspond to a stretch of colder weather such as day time highs in the low 40's or 30's. Don't be deceived by frosty nights and put your mower away in October!

The final mowing of the season can be anywhere from mid to late November depending upon weather conditions. If the turf is left at a normal height (3"), this will promote snow mold disease and the grass will likely be matted and suffer damage that will become visible in the spring.

A winterizing treatment of potassium (potash) will harden the grass off in October to early November before the ground freezes. Your grass should be clean and not be covered with piles of leaves or debris that will impair the lawn's ability to breath under the snow. All leaves, sticks, and debris should be removed prior to the first snowfall and removed again in early spring after winter storms have passed.

Please email any tree or shrub questions to: askthearborist@chippersinc.com
For turf or soil care information contact: turf@chippersinc.com

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Lebanon 603.448.4800
Meredith 603.279.7400
New London 603.526.4500
Woodstock 802.457.5100

chippersinc.com

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Contributors: Cal Felicetti & Theron Peck
Design: Edie Crocker
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Chippers Chatter



It's a bird! It's a plane! It's SuperChippers to the rescue! *We were very pleased to help photographer Earl Adams take a bird's eye photo of the record-breaking Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Half Marathon event from our bucket lift on August 29, 2009. CHaD shattered a Guinness World Record—with a total of 1,016 Superheroes gathered in one spot! We are grateful to our employees Clint Anderson and Cal Felicetti (and his wife Nicola who works at DHMC), for their efforts in support of an excellent cause.*

Plant Profile:

Helianthus

hee-lee-AN-thus

Common Name: Sunflower

Noteworthy characteristics: Showy, daisy-shaped flowers with simple, bristly leaves in a vast array of sunny colors, forms, and sizes. Good in borders, annual beds, cutting gardens, and wildlife plantings.

Care: Sunflowers need full sun and fertile, moist but well-drained soil. They flower best during long, hot summers. Most will tolerate drier conditions, but some species thrive in moist soil. Stake if needed.

Propagation: Sow seeds of annuals in late winter indoors or in situ in spring. Sow seeds of perennials in a cold frame in spring. Divide perennials in spring or fall or root basal cuttings in spring.

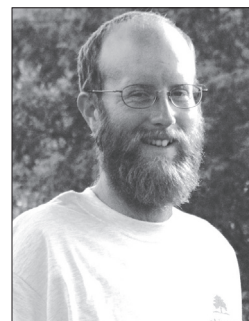
Problems: Downy mildew, powdery mildew, canker, rust, and fungal leaf spots are common. Be on the lookout



also for caterpillars, cutworms, beetles, and weevils.

Source: *Fine Gardening Plant Guide*
www.finegardening.com/plantguide

MEET A CHIPPER



Kristopher Kingsbury is an extremely hard working Enhancement Crew member and Stump Grinder Operator based in our Woodstock, VT location. Kris grew up in Randolph Center and attended Randolph Union High School and Randolph Area Vocational Center. He then went on to Paul Smith's College and North Country Community College and received an Associate of Arts in Humanities & Social Science.

Kris started with us in May of 2007 and has been a fantastic employee from day one. "I like working outside, it's a good atmosphere, I learn something new every day, and I have opportunities for growth. It is just a fun job!" Kris is also environmentally conscious and has submitted many great ideas for our company-wide efforts to reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Kris, his wife Sara, and three year old son Warren stay pretty busy on their 18 acre property in Topsham, VT and work hard to be self sufficient. They grow their own vegetables and raise chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese. In his free time, Kris enjoys hunting, hiking and snowmobiling. He also dabbles in blacksmithing and photography.

Fall Check List

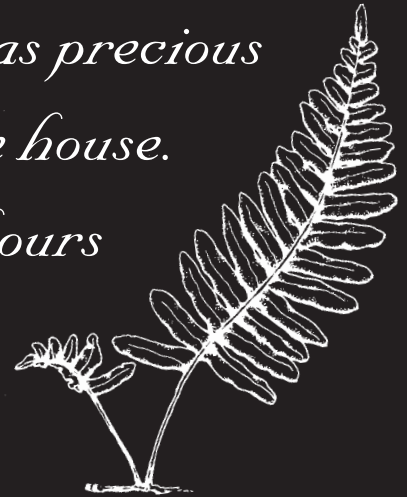
- Seed, aerate and over seed bare spots in lawn
- Schedule fall/winter tree service
- Arrange for a storm prevention audit
- Schedule potassium application to reduce winter lawn stress
- Plant and/or transplant trees and shrubs
- Plan deer protection
- Rake and remove or mulch leaves
- Cable and brace trees to minimize storm damage
- Schedule anti-desiccant applications for injury susceptible evergreens
- Remove dead and damaged limbs from trees with maintenance pruning
- Before snow flies, protect roses and other sensitive shrubs with burlap screens

FREE: Woodchips for Mulch!

Now is a great time to give your established trees and shrubs a layer of mulch. Help yourself to free woodchips located at our Vermont headquarters in Woodstock. If you need assistance with loading please call before you come: 802.457.5100. Delivery of woodchips to your property is available at additional cost.

“I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn sunshine by staying in the house. So I spend almost all the daylight hours in the open air.”

—NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE (1804-1864)



Enhancing Your Outdoor Living Spaces

1241 Pomfret Road
Woodstock, VT 05091

chippers

