

Winter 2007

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What's New

Well, here we are again. Another growing season has passed and I am thankful for a lighter workload. I am also thankful for the great client following we have here at NPHC. You folks are the best. If it weren't for your continued patronage, it would be difficult to relax even at this time of the year. We had a successful 2006 and are looking towards another great season in 2007. Thanks again!

We are pleased to again offer our **15% discount on pruning, removals and landscape design services accomplished between now and February 28th**. We know that many of you look forward to this special to be able to care for your trees, so now is the time. Give us a call and we'll get you on the schedule before the spring rush.

Mark your Calendars!

Home & Yard Show

February 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th Spokane Fairgrounds

Thursday 12pm – 9pm

Friday: 12pm – 9pm

Saturday: 10am – 8pm

Sunday: 10am – 5pm

A terrific show at a great time. Stop by & see us booth #475.

Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference:

WSU Extension, Conferences & Professional Programs:

February 7th(SCC), 8th, 9th Coeur d'Alene Resort

Call 509-942-4978 for information & registration.

Horticulture Class Series

12 week extensive training at Spokane Extension Office

February 15th—May 3rd 509-477-2048

This spring we are also introducing two new service offerings: **Spider/Ant Barrier Sprays and Shrub Bed Weed Control**. Many of you have requested these services in the past and so we are responding to meet that need. Both of these services fit well with our insect and disease management applications or PHC visits and can be accomplished at the same time or separately to provide you with a fuller service.

We are happy to come out at any time of year and discuss the many ways to improve your landscape to enhance its value to you. Wishing you and yours the very best this New Year!

In Care of Trees,

President

Ben's Bistro

Soup Hits The Spot On A Blustery Day!

Cream of butternut squash soup

(Serve with cornbread or your favorite rustic bread)

1 med./large butternut squash

1 med. sweet onion

2 tbsp. butter

2 tbsp. olive oil

1 tbsp. garlic

3 ½ C. chicken or /vegetable stock

½ C. Fume blanc or similar sweet/dry wine

2 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

2 tbsp Maple syrup

1 tbsp. Cholula (brand) hot sauce (or to taste)

1 tsp. ground sage

½ tsp. crushed thyme

Salt to taste

1st: Roast cleaned, oiled squash in 350 F. oven for 50 min. or until soft. Set-aside until cool. Remove skin.

2nd: Melt butter and any remaining olive oil at med.-high in a 2 qt. saucepan. Add 1 med. diced onion; stir frequently until onions are fully caramelized. Add garlic, sauté for 30 seconds and deglaze (loosen bits of flavor from pan) with white wine. Reduce liquid to 1½ to 2oz.

3rd: Add in squash and puree using stock to thin in blender or preferably in pot with onions/wine reduction using a submersible hand blender.

4th: Add in all remaining ingredients and simmer on low heat for 1 hour.

Garnish with paprika and parsley sprig.

*For heartier meal: add wild mushrooms, grilled fennel, po-

Shrub Pruning Naturally

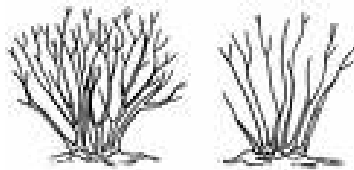
Natural shrub pruning is considered by professionals to be the most healthy and effective method for pruning. Many of us have instilled in our minds the idea that all the plants in the landscape must be kept perfectly shaped, or that shearing is necessary in order to maintain size. There are some instances when the formal look is desirable, but it has to be implemented with the appropriate plant. For example, if a person desires a formal border along the sidewalk leading to the front door, boxwoods are an excellent option because they tolerate shearing and can be easily maintained. Arborvitae is another plant that can be frequently sheared when a formal-looking hedge is desired. However, most

Natural shrub pruning is a much better alternative to shearing.

plants do not respond well to shearing. When a plant is sheared it stimulates the random growth of shoots from latent buds, which results in a rampant disorganized growth habit. Shearing may also expose more deadwood, particularly if practiced repeatedly year after year. Therefore, because growth is actually stimulated, shearing is not a suitable method for controlling the size of many plants.

Natural shrub pruning is a much better alternative to shearing. It is an effective way to maintain a plants size while

sustaining an attractive shape and structure. Though pruning shrubs naturally often requires more work, the results far outweigh the extra labor. Because the cuts are made at



BEFORE

AFTER

lateral branches, instead of the internodal (between branch unions) cuts made by shearing, the overall effect is a more organized and intentional growth habit. The majority of the plants in the landscape respond best to

natural pruning, including barberry, juniper, burning bush, yew, and viburnum. (See specifics for pruning Roses in the Rose Care article on the outside page.)

However, some plants do have a growth habit that is not conducive to natural pruning and require more drastic pruning techniques. Stooling is the most aggressive type of pruning in which stems are cut back to within six inches from the ground. It may seem extreme but some plants have developed the ability to respond favorably to this treatment (probably a natural adaptation to herbivores). This is an acceptable method to manage spirea, red-twigged dogwood, blue-arctic willow, and butterfly bush.

Whether you will be doing your own shrub pruning or calling on one of our Certified Arborists to beautify your shrubs during this dormant season, I hope these guidelines are helpful.

To Do Now

- Take advantage of our **15% off on Pruning, Removals and Landscape Design services performed prior to 2/28/2007**. To assure this scheduling, you should call prior to February 15th.
- Take advantage of the only Airspade in the Inland Northwest to transplant valuable specimens.
- Winter is a great time to take care of large removals creating less impact on your perennials and turf.
- Fruit tree pruning is best performed in the dormant season, call to have yours cared for now.

“The trees you pruned along Pinegrove for our neighborhood association (Lake Forest) look so much better than prior to pruning, they almost look like different trees entirely.”

M. C-G., Cd’A, ID

Want to receive your newsletter via e-mail?

Contact us with your e-mail at:

A Cool Crowd

Cannon Hill Homeowners (600/700 blocks of East 20th)

This great group of folks has decided to embark on a community pruning project for their old and valued London plane trees. With the promise of lower winter pruning rates, performing the clean up themselves and the talk of a “block party/barbecue” accompanying the cleanup effort, these neighbors have come together and committed to the care of these great old trees at discounts of up to 40%. Carrie Anderson, a.k.a. “Tree Lady”, was instrumental in galvanizing and promoting the project. Talk with your neighbors! NPHC would love to plan a community tree-pruning project in your neighborhood. Who knows, maybe your neighborhood will be the next “Cool Crowd”!

“Ask The Tree Care Experts”

Q: Which plants should I have fertilized?

A: Fertilizing plants in the landscape can be an important part of establishing them and keeping them healthy. Most of the soils in our region are relatively fertile with lower to moderate organic matter (soil component responsible for nitrogen and water holding capacity), therefore, we recommend fertilizing on a prescription basis.

Reasons to consider fertilizing plants include:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs in order to encourage establishment.
- Trees or shrubs that have or will experience construction damage to the roots or are recovering from damage to the canopy.
- Species known to have specific nutrient deficiency issues when grown in our region.
- Situations where increased growth rate is desirable, such as a young shade tree or development of a hedge or screen.

Q: My pine has some kind of bulging growth; what is it?

A: Ponderosa pine is a relatively strong wooded species and is not typically prone to wind throw (root failure) due to its deep root system. However, they do occasionally break off at weak points along the trunk. Deformed cankered regions on the trunk caused by the disease Western Gall Rust often cause such weaknesses. The disease causes golf ball to softball sized knots to form on the branches as well as sunken or deformed areas on the trunks of trees often referred to as “Cat Faces”. These



cankers often ooze resin or “pitch” and can be the point at which trunk breaks occur, although it is typically above or below the canker. It is a good idea to have these cankers inspected by a Certified Arborist if you have them in trees that are likely to cause damage if they fail.

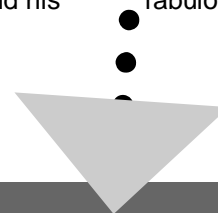


Who's hot

Thorin Brown

is our most enthusiastic ISA Certified Arborist on staff! Many of you are familiar with Thorin as your Plant Health Care expert. Having grown up with a tree man as a father and a landscape designer as a step father, entering our industry started at a young age. Thorin's well rounded experience, drive for knowledge and enthusiasm for proper tree care, make him an extremely versatile staff member. Co-workers and clients thoroughly enjoy working side by side with him. Thorin likes expounding his knowledge at every opportunity. When not in continuing education for Arboriculture, or engrossed with an industry manual, he is studying to finish his AA degree.

When he's not at work or school, you'll find him spending time with his kids, Ara, age 11 and Tolkien, age 9, and his fabulous fiancé, Rachel. We



What's not?

Spiders, Ants & Weeds, Oh My!

To some of us spiders and ants in our homes is annoying, to others it's down right creepy. No worries. Northwest Plant Health Care is here to help.

As part of our spring services we are now offering external spider and ant barrier sprays to prevent these pests from entering your home.

And then of course, there is the drudgery of weeding your planting beds. Also by popular demand we are offering complete shrub bed weed management for your ornamental beds. Phew! What a relief, more enjoyment and less work.

Becky, Jeni and Thorin are anxious to get out there in the spring to help with this and any of your other plant care needs. So don't wait, simplify your life and give us a call, we'll take care of it for you.

Northwest Plant Health Care, Inc.

P.O. Box 1978
Post Falls, ID 83877
509-892-0110
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www.NorthwestPlantHealthCare.com

Shrub Pruning Naturally

Cankers Weaken Pines

Two New Services:
Spider & Ant Barrier
Weed Control in Beds

Why Fertilize?

Caring for Roses

**Pruning - Removals - Planting - Transplanting
Plant Health Care - Fertilizing - Targeted Applications**

Rose Care: Diseases, Pests & Pruning

Roses are said to be the most widely planted shrubs in the west, as well as, in all other temperate regions of the world. While the wild rose does well on its own, the cultivated hybrids that are an essential element in many gardens perform better with some planning and attention throughout the season. The basics of diseases and pest control as well as proper pruning will aid in the success of your roses.

Most roses grow best when planted in well-drained soil, in a sunny location, with adequate spacing between plants. Although they can tolerate shade and a close planting distance, they often develop fungal diseases like black spot and powdery mildew, which are not only unsightly, but damaging as well. Fortunately, most fungal diseases can be treated, although repeated applications on a regimented



Rose 'Loving Memory'

schedule are required to gain control once the disease has become established. Preventative treatments early in the season are an option for plants with a history of, or in a location that promotes, these diseases.

The most common damaging pests of roses are aphids, spider mites, and thrips. Aphids feed on new growth and can continue to be a problem as long as the plant is actively growing. Spider mites tend to initiate their feeding on old growth, but can quickly spread throughout the foliage and cause defoliation as populations increase. Thrips are known to hide inside the flower bud and feed on the flower parts as they develop, causing noticeable damage once the flower has opened. Treatments of a systemic drench are available for aphids and thrips to provide season long control, and dormant sprays in the spring can help reduce over-wintering mite populations. Mid-season treatments may also be needed to control new generations of spider mites.

Rose pruning should promote strong growth that will bear good flowers. First, remove all dead wood and old, unproductive canes. Also remove thin, weak, stems to make way for thicker, more vigorous canes. Crossing branches or those growing in an errant direction should also be removed. Cut back the previous year's growth to an outward facing bud. The general rule is to remove no more than 1/3 to 1/2 of the previous season's growth. It is recommended that this pruning be done during the dormant season, which is usually late October to early March. Give us a call if you'd like our complete rose service or to add rose care to your current program.