

Let's Talk Trees



Ethics Loyalty Integrity Quality of Life

From Joe...what's new

Even though the holiday season is behind us, we are still so thankful for your continued patronage and will never lose sight of how important each one of you is to our success. On that note I want to wish you and your family a blessed and prosperous New Year. I just know 2013 is gonna be great!

Jumpstart Your Landscape

If you are thinking about making significant changes to your landscape this coming year, now is a great time to start planning. Before embarking on a project it is always a good idea to consult with someone you trust to give you an idea of feasibility and cost considering your goals and your budget. Ben and I are excellent at guiding you through these conceptual stages. We understand there must a balance between functionality, cost and aesthetics for a project to be really successful. Give us a call and we can get a jump on planning before spring hits.

The Ben and Ben Show

Ben Kappen and Ben Larson are taking Spokane's collegiate green industry education system by storm in 2012/2013! Ben Kappen was selected by the Horticulture department head at Spokane Community College to teach the pruning course and has just completed his first full semester of professorial work. Ben was asked to step in after the instructor, our dear friend and colleague Rich Baker, suffered a debilitating stroke last winter. In addition, our own Ben Larson was asked to teach the tree climbing course recently vacated due to Rich's absence. We are so proud of our "Bens" and their ever expanding set of skills.

» For SCC Tree Courses call 509-333-8010



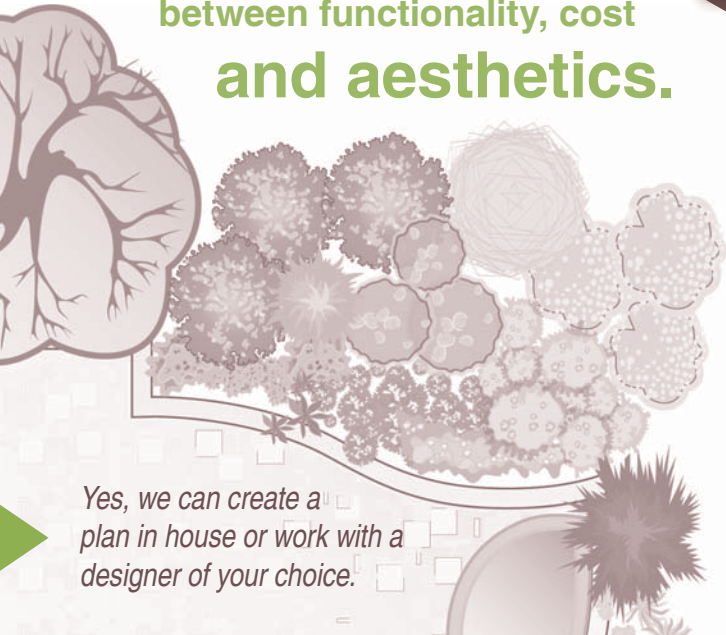
Super Service Award

We are excited to share that NPHC has won the prestigious **Angie's List Super Service Award** for the second year in a row! This award is given to less than 5% of all businesses who participate in the online rating site. Of course, we could not have earned it without your positive comments, so **THANK YOU**. Like I said before, we never forget how important you are to our success.

In care of trees, *Joe Zabely*

We understand there must be a balance

between functionality, cost and aesthetics.

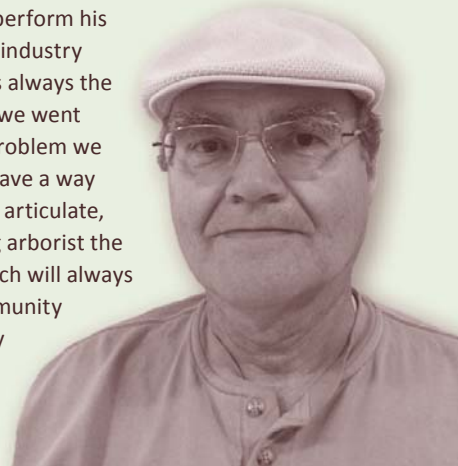


Yes, we can create a plan in house or work with a designer of your choice.

The Cool Crowd

Rich Baker, the Arborists' Arborist

Nearly a year ago, one of the area's most respected industry professionals was tragically affected by a stroke. The event cost our friend the ability to perform his work as an arborist and local green industry educator/supporter. Rich Baker was always the arborists' arborist. He was the one we went to when we had an arboricultural problem we could not solve. And boy, did Rich have a way with words! He was by far the most articulate, knowledgeable and yet unassuming arborist the Inland Northwest will ever know. Rich will always be remembered fondly by the community of arborists for which he so willingly gave of his time, his heart and his mind. Rich, we love you.



Dormant Season Pruning Strategies *By Ben Kappen*

The question of when to prune can be confusing due to the varying number of opinions and the lack of extensive research-based recommendations. Industry guidelines suggest that judicious pruning not exceeding 25 – 30% of live wood removal within a growing season is acceptable year round. This is a general guideline, of course, and the amount and timing of live wood pruning is best tailored to individual plants based on species, age and circumstance. Deadwood pruning in any amount is acceptable year round.

Dormant season pruning has long been held as a period where more liberal pruning strategies can be employed with less significant stress to a plant. The science regarding plant response to such pruning is somewhat conflicting and continuously developing, but common thought holds that an absence of the majority of insects and disease pests during colder seasons can afford a plant time to respond to wounding before experiencing additional stress such as high temperatures and low soil moisture (drought stress). There are a few types of tree and shrub pruning that arborists typically recommend during dormancy in our region.

Fruit Tree Pruning

Fruit trees grown for fruit production are commonly pruned in the dormant season. The aggressive nature of pruning to develop and maintain a low growing and open structure that is accessible for picking and that allows fruit to be born in the lower and interior portions of trees is a primary factor. Ideally, healthy and annually maintained fruit trees will remain within that general guideline of 30% live wood removal within a growing season in order to preserve a short, sturdy form that can bear a fruit crop without limb breakage.

Additionally, a significant amount of live wood is removed in the thinning of vegetative growth (non fruit producing branches) to allow light to reach the interior of the tree in order to produce a desirable crop. When vigorous fruit trees are not maintained annually, the need to remove upwards of 50% of the live canopy in order to achieve these structural and thinning objectives is not uncommon. While this severe

pruning may not be ideal, it is often necessary in order to reduce the height, spread and overall density of a fruit tree in order to maximize its function.

Pruning during dormancy also avoids disruption of the tree during bloom in the spring, and during fruit set and development through the summer and into fall. Aggressive pruning of this kind typically stimulates a flush of rapid growth commonly known as watersprouts or suckers, which are particularly susceptible to cold injury when encouraged to form in late summer or early fall. Dormant season pruning helps to ensure this inevitable vigorous re-growth will become fully developed by summer in order to harden off before frost occurs.



Shrub Pruning

As with trees, dormancy affords the opportunity to employ more aggressive pruning methods when needed to maintain or influence, size, shape, vigor and flowering in shrubs.

Rejuvenation and natural reduction pruning can be performed throughout the growing season. This involves pruning a percentage (usually 25-33%) of the oldest stems back to the ground in order to open the crown and to stimulate new stems emerge from the base. The top of the plant is then managed to thin and shape as needed to develop a pleasing and functional form. When this method is performed in the dormant season, a more liberal amount of a shrub can be reliably removed without causing excessive stress.

Stooling or coppicing utilizes certain species' propensity for vigorous growth in order to promote desirable attributes in the landscape. This simple method of pruning entails cutting back all stems to the ground in the dormant season in order to stimulate a flush of vigorous rapid growth the following spring. It is commonly utilized in species where stem color is important for seasonal interest or where a compact and dense form is highly desirable. This method can also stimulate bloom production on certain species and is a good means of reclaiming shrubs that have grown too large for their space or where an asymmetrical form has developed over time.

It is important to know whether or not a given species responds well to this type of pruning or if individual plants are vigorous enough to withstand such pruning in order to avoid excessive stress. In addition, knowing whether or not a shrub produces flowers on old or new wood will prevent the disappointment of removing the next spring's flower display before it happens. ☺



NPHC offers
Spring clean up! Call Becky to
schedule your service.
509.892.0110

Proudly celebrating 16 years of excellence in plant health care. Thanks for choosing NPHC!

Who's Hot

Jim Farmer

Jim Farmer is our newest foreman on the pruning crew and originally hails from Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining NPHC, Jim spent 6 years working with trees in Ohio, Colorado, California and central Idaho. He has a wide range of experience from ground work, to climbing large deciduous trees, to large scale removals of hazardous trees in Yosemite National Forest.

Jim is a quiet man with a humble nature and a passion for the outdoors. He enjoys camping, backpacking, fishing, and hunting with his brothers. In 2010 Jim and his brothers hiked the entire Appalachian Trail running from Georgia to Maine. Wow!

Jim says that his two favorite things about working at NPHC are the variety of conifers he gets to work on and the four-day work week, because it allows him to spend long weekends in the great outdoors. We are happy to welcome Jim to the NPHC family and look forward to him passing the Certified Arborist exam in March, 2013. ❧

What's Not

Snow Mold

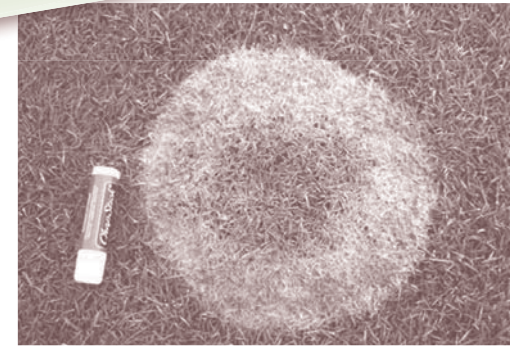
Pink and Gray Snow Mold are two fungal turf diseases prevalent in our area. Pink Snow Mold looks white at first, but turns a pinkish or salmon color when mature. Gray Snow Mold is white to gray in color.

Snow cover and fallen leaves on the turf create a favorable environment for the fungi, with damage not visible until the snow melts. Symptoms consist of patches of dead and matted grass blades of

a roughly circular shape three to twelve inches in diameter. These patches may grow together and create larger, irregular shaped areas of damage.

Gray snow mold attacks the blades of the grass plant, and the turf generally recovers quickly. Pink snow mold, in contrast, may infect the crowns and roots and cause more extensive damage. If you are concerned about snow mold in your landscape, give us a call when the snow melts. We will schedule an on-site visit and create a treatment plan to get your turf back to health. ❧

Microdochium nivale (pink snow mold)



<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/gotpests/diseases>

The pruning job turned out **great.** Even with the

outstanding job.

~ Dan Grogg, Post Falls



Amazing fact: Jim has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail!

We love this on a cold winter night. Enjoy! ~ Kate

Lemon Prosciutto Pork Roast

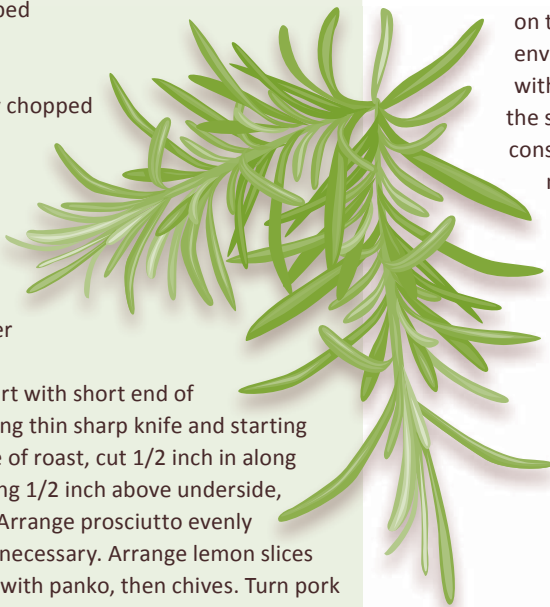
One 2-pound boneless pork roast
6 oz. thin prosciutto cut in strips
1 large lemon, peeled and very thinly sliced
3 Tbs. panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
3 Tbs. fresh chives, chopped

Rub:

1/3 c. sweet onion, finely chopped
1 tsp. fresh lemon zest
1 tbs. fresh rosemary
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbs. grapeseed oil
1 Tbs. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp fresh ground pepper

Preheat oven to 450°. Start with short end of roast facing you. Using long thin sharp knife and starting 1/2 inch above underside of roast, cut 1/2 inch in along right side. Continue cutting 1/2 inch above underside, unrolling roast until flat. Arrange prosciutto evenly over pork, overlapping if necessary. Arrange lemon slices over prosciutto. Sprinkle with panko, then chives. Turn pork so short end faces you. Roll up pork; arrange seam side down on work surface. Using kitchen string, tie at 2-inch intervals.

In a small bowl combine the rub ingredients; rub thoroughly over the roast. Place pork in roasting pan on lower rack; roast 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 325°; move rack to mid oven. Roast pork until instant-read thermometer registers 155° when inserted into center of pork, 45 to 60 minutes longer, depending on thickness of roast. Slice into 1/2 inch pieces, display on tray. Gorgeous!



Specializing in Distinctive Landscapes by Certified Arborists.

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THE INSIDE DIRT

Dormant Season Pruning Strategies

Lemon Prosciutto Pork Roast

Honoring Rich Baker

Ask the Tree Care Experts

What is dormant spray, and do I need one?

by Becky Phillips

Dormant spray is the application of a refined horticultural oil that is environmentally safe and helps control soft-bodied, plant-damaging insects that are overwintering on trees and shrubs. The application is made in the fall or spring on leafless deciduous plants and certain evergreens while the plants are dormant. If the plant species being treated is also susceptible to certain fungal or bacterial diseases, it is common to add copper sulfate to the oil for increased protection.

Fruit trees are commonly treated with dormant applications, as well as Ash, Maple, Arborvitae, and others. If you have these species in your landscape, or had issues last season with aphids, mites or powdery mildew, your trees could benefit from a dormant spray. ☞

Can you install a low maintenance landscape?

by Joe Zubaly

This is the most requested “type” of landscaping project we are asked to accomplish. People are just too darn busy to spend time in their yards pruning, primping and cleaning up. I can understand that! As a business owner with three boys who play all kinds of sports, other things just seem more important, and rightfully so.

The key to success is plant selection, and we recommend species that either need very little pruning or need pruning only once every few years and are well spaced. Good choices include dwarf conifers and other dwarf shrubs, small ornamental trees, multi-stem shrubs that can be stooled (pruned back to the ground) on a yearly or several-year basis, grasses or sedges that are either cut back once a year or left for winter interest, and perennials that “melt” back to the ground once the cold weather hits. ☞



To Do

- * Dormant season pruning of fruit trees, ornamentals and grasses
- * Knock snow off valued ornamentals
- * Removals w/difficult access while the ground is hard
- * Winter landscape design
- * Water evergreens under overhangs
- * Sign up for irrigation turn-on in the spring
- * Snowshoe in Dishman Hills