

Prime Landscape Services, Inc.



PRIME'S CLIPPINGS

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Here's to a great New Year!

We hope everyone enjoyed the end of year festivities and are as excited as we are about the fresh beginnings and opportunities that a New Year brings. We always look forward to the relatively quiet month of January as a time to

improve our operations and procedures so that we can provide you the best possible services in 2010 and beyond.

This is also the time of year when good gardeners and smart homeowners make their plans and start

their home improvement projects for the New Year.

So take this time to reflect on last year's successes and make your plans for an exciting 2010.

Happy New Year!



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Our goal is to fulfill the needs of the customer by providing timely, quality services and products.

Thanks for your business!

Our Annual Mulch Special Is Here !

Mulching your beds is



absolutely the best thing you can do for the health of your soil and plants. Remember: mulch reduces weeds, improves soil structure, conserves moisture, protects plants from extreme

cold and summer heat, and gives your beds a neat appearance.

Take advantage now! Mention our newsletter for 20% off

normal prices.

Prices Include Delivery and Installation!

(extra charges may apply for weeding or leaf clean ups if needed)

How much do I need? We recommend adding 2" to existing mulch or 3" to un-mulched areas. A 2 cu ft bag will cover about 10 sq ft 2" deep or 7 sq ft 3" deep

Hardwood: \$4.20 per 2 cu ft bag

Dark brown, enriches soil as it decomposes

Cedar: \$5.30 per 3 cu ft bag new larger bags!

Great cedar smell, lighter color, lasts longer

Red Mulch: \$4.50 per bag

For that bright red decorative look

January Chores:

- Mulch beds
- Trim crepe myrtles
- Make major pruning changes to overgrown shrubs
- Prune low limbs on trees
- Prune dormant perennials and fountain grasses
- Plant and transplant trees and shrubs
- Apply pre-emergent and broadleaf herbicides
- Change water and clean water gardens and koi ponds

Lawn Care in January

We are finishing the last of our leaf clean ups in early January, so if you still need one please call to schedule ASAP. Bradford pears, Shumard oaks, and some others are still holding their leaves but should finish dropping any day now.

Our first round of Spring pre-emergent weed control will be applied in January. This application and the next one in Feb – March also contain a broadleaf weed killer for any dandelions, henbit, or chickweed that may have come up over the last

few months. Even when they are caught early it still takes two applications to kill them. With a potentially wet winter ahead, broadleaves will grow rapidly, and they are virtually impossible to kill once they start flowering in March and April. Please note if you have a St. Augustine lawn, we will only spot spray broadleaves from now on except in extreme cases. Studies have shown that regular applications of broadleaf weed control across the entire lawn can actually weaken the grass.

It is also time to get a round of or-

ganic fertilizer out and this is especially beneficial for St. Augustine lawns. We have had excellent results on some of our St. Augustine yards using poultry and corn gluten based organic fertilizers. The organic fertilizers break down slowly over several months and help to build beneficial microbes in the soil. Healthier soil = healthier plants and a thick healthy stand of grass is the best weed preventative.

We will continue to mow rye grass biweekly depending on its rate of growth.

Pond Care in Winter

We begin our annual pond clean outs in January. If your pond has a lot of leaves and acorns in it, you should either try to clean out as many as possible or have your clean out done now. Decaying leaves in the bottom can raise ammonia levels and stress

your fish. If you don't have a lot of debris in your pond, then wait until Feb or later for your clean out.

String algae will start to appear within a few weeks and grow throughout Spring. Your annual clean out will remove it but it will reappear. This is

the time of year to apply bacterial or other products specifically for string algae. Ever read my article on H2O2? (Call for more info) Remember, don't feed the fish! And call to schedule your clean out or if we can help you with algae or other issues.

January – Make Plans Now!

January may be one of the quietest months when it comes to working in your yard, but true gardeners know this is the time to get started on next year. Just as vegetable gardeners love to peruse the seed catalogues and decide on new varieties to try, the urban gardener can think back to last year's successes or failures and make plans to try something new or different.

Start first by looking at your home and yard as a whole. Does your yard fit your lifestyle? When you entertained, was your outdoor living space adequate? You may have thought that some additional patio area or a shade structure would have been nice. Was the landscaping around your casual areas an attractive focal point, or could it use a makeover with some pizzazz? How about lighting? Would some soft moonlighting or subtle path lighting make your yard

more user friendly and attractive? Outdoor living spaces with patios, ponds, fireplaces and even full kitchens are one of the hottest trends in urban living. A well designed area with the proper components not only adds to your enjoyment, it can substantially increase the market value of your home too.

Problem areas should also be addressed now. Sprinkler systems are rarely perfect. They are intended to supplement rainfall, not replace it. Over time, shrubs and ornamentals grow to block some heads, and turf may build up to a point where heads won't pop up high enough. Virtually every year in July any weaknesses in your system become painfully obvious. This is the time to schedule an appraisal or service call to correct any deficiencies, not next June when our technicians are booked out for 3 weeks. With the excess rain this fall

you may have had drainage problems too. If you haven't corrected them they are still there and just waiting for our next long rainy spell to come back into focus. If you have ever had water come into your house much easier to resolve a drainage problem when it is dry rather than 11:00 o'clock at night in a thunderstorm. Why wait until the problem returns?

Problem plants should also be considered now. You may have plants that have outgrown their spaces and need to be severely pruned, removed, or transplanted. Tree limbs that have dipped too low should also be addressed. These chores should be done during dormancy. Remember, by April we will be booked out for several weeks. Start the process now so you can be enjoying your new yard in spring while your neighbors are still waiting in line!