



# PRIME'S CLIPPINGS

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www.PrimeLandscapeServices.com

817.461.4000 office

817.274.5459 fax



## La Nina or Not?



*Greg Hamann, owner*

We are enjoying a mild winter but much wetter so far than what was predicted. Of course, the faucets could shut off at any time as we have seen all too often, so enjoy these rainy spells while they last. We could very well see a hard cold spell as well. Last year it didn't hit until February 2nd. The terrible summer of

last year thinned most stands of turf, and that combined with a wet and warm winter has spurred widespread weed infestations in our lawns. We are into our first round of winter weed applications so you will see your weeds start to curl soon after our lawn techs have visited your property. If you are a do it yourselfer, get a

pre-emergent down now. You need separate chemicals for broadleaf and grassy weeds, and some of these products are not suitable for St. Augustine.

Want to save yourself the confusion and hassle? Give us a call to get set up on our lawn services. We'll get it clean and keep it green!

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

**Thanks for your business!**

## Annual Mulch Special Extended Through Feb !

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!**

### DISCOUNTED PRICE

**Hardwood: \$4.40 per 2 cu ft bag**

Dark brown, enriches soil as it decomposes

**Cedar: \$5.50 per 3 cu ft bag** *new larger bags!*

Great cedar smell

**Red or Black Mulch: \$4.80 per bag**

For a decorative look

### February Chores:

- Plant new shrubs and trees
- Mulch beds
- Trim crape 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



- \* Landscaping
- \* Sprinklers
- \* Drainage
- \* Stone Masonry
- \* Pools
- \* Waterfalls
- \* Weed Control
- \* Fertilizing
- \* Lighting
- \* Pruning—and more!

## Don't Forget These Winter Chores!

February is *the* month to transplant trees, shrubs, and many perennials. If you have something that doesn't quite fit and has not been in the ground too many years, now is the time to find it a new home. Keep as much soil around the root ball as you can, and water with root stimulator and liquid Fish/seaweed emulsion.

While trees are still void of foliage, prune to remove mistletoe, low limbs, and perform corrective pruning for crossed limbs, weak forks, and other

potential hazards. It is much easier to see what needs to be done when the leaves are off.

Cut back ornamental fountain grasses, roses, and groundcovers such as liriopie and Asian jasmine this month.

This is also the time for severe pruning of overgrown shrubs, or shall we say perhaps a shrub that may not have been planted in the best location? Regardless, you can cut many shrubs back to wood now with a good chance they will leaf back out in spring.

## Pay your bill on-line!

Paying your bill has never been easier. If you receive your invoice by e-mail, simply click the link at the bottom to go to our safe, secure on-line pay portal.

If you receive your bill via the postal service, simply type this address in your browser and follow the simple instructions. It's quick *and* easy!

(<https://ipn.intuit.com/vt8hr3vx>)

## The Earliest Bloomers

With a mild winter like we have had so far, it's easy to start getting spring fever a little early. Some of our plants get it too, and there are several that will start blooming in the next few weeks. Some of these are old-timey garden favorites and well worth considering for your yard. These plants aren't just helping to brighten our winter days with color. They also provide much needed early forage for the honey bee and other wildlife.

Flowering quince, *Chaenomeles japonica*, is a rather non-descript shrub in the summer, best suited for the back of the bed or tucked in with other evergreen shrubs. But in February it is spectacular in pinks, whites, or reds.



Forsythia, *Forsythia intermedia spectabilis*, is the arching shrub of bright yellow that you may even see at old abandoned homesites.



Not to be confused with forsythia is Lady Banks rose, *Rosa banksiae*. It is equally



brilliant but needs a large space or pergola to climb over, and usually blooms a little later. White varieties are available too.

Not as showy as some but well worth having in your shade garden is the Leatherleaf mahonia, *Mahonia bealei*. These bloom in cluster of yellow in Jan. — Feb and form grape-like clusters of blue fruits, a favorite food of the cedar waxwing. The coarsely toothed bluish green foliage is interesting year-round.



Down a little lower to ground, daffodils, jonquils, and paper whites are emerging, and some of the earlier types will be in bloom shortly. Do you have a few sprinkled in your beds?



The winter flowering honeysuckle *Lonicera fragrantissima*, is a shrub form of the honeysuckle family that is desirable for its fragrance, and bees love it.

Winter flowering jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, is a low sprawling shrub with fragrant yellow flowers, and like lonicera, it has attractive foliage during summer as well.

Several of our fruit trees will bloom in February, but my favorite is the native wild plum, *Prunus texana* or *Prunus Mexicana*. They are covered with creamy white blooms that fill the entire yard with sweet fragrance, produce fruit for wildlife and jelly making, and are tough as nails to boot. What more can a Texas gardener ask for?

### A Word About Grape Myrtle Pruning

We will finish pruning crape myrtles in February. The horticulturally correct method is to treat a standard tree-form crape like any other tree. Prune entire branches to allow more sunlight into the canopy and reduce overcrowding, remove low branches that are in the way, remove water sprouts and suckers, and strip the seed pods if their appearance bothers you or cut tips of limbs no larger than a pencil. However, many properties and some homeowners want their crape myrtles kept within a certain size range and this limit requires "topping" or more drastic cutting of the crowns. Since we have to administer both techniques, be sure to let us know if you have a preference.