

Village Garden Center



Start Planning Now for Spring Planting

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Does this harsh winter have you dreaming about warmer weather and enjoying your outdoor living space and landscape? Spring may seem a long time away, but designing a master plan now eases the way into a beautiful, renewed garden. Waiting until spring is already here before planning your landscape changes and additions can not only hamper your ability to complete the project, but it can also jeopardize the health and longevity of new plants that may not have been planted correctly. Knowing that you'd like to add new plantings, you will need to develop a master plan and research the best time to add each planting. A master plan is crucial to ensure that the plants you want are ready and available when it's optimal to plant them in the ground. Planting times vary by climate, so you'll want to be sure to find a planting guide that is suited for your particular region. Consider your soil type, soil pH, average rainfall and frost dates when deciding on which plants you'll add and where you'll plant them. Once your master plan is in place, you (or your landscaper) can make sure everything is ordered to arrive in time for the first plantings in March and April.

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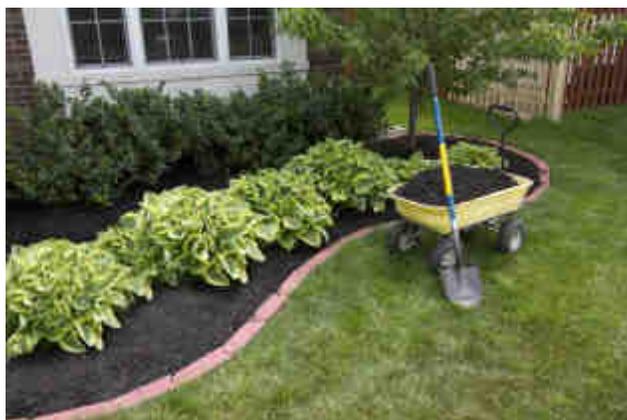
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Happy New Year! 2017



January Lawn & Garden - dealing with Ice & Snow

Don't worry about natural or windblown snow if nothing is bent or breaking.



In most cases, snow is nothing to fear in the garden it's a great insulator, and it melts to provide much

needed water to dry plants in the winter. However, heavy snow and ice buildup can cause devastating damage in the garden if limbs and trunks bend or break. Here's what you need to know about dealing with snow and ice in the yard and garden.

Should You Remove Snow and Ice?



Natural Snow Cover: Even if it's deep, a blanket or windblown drift of snow is nothing to worry about in fact, it acts as an extra layer of insulating mulch!

Manmade Snow Cover: Most snow damage is caused by humans using snowplows, shovels, and snowblowers.

The bent limbs on these Leyland cypress may recover in spring.

Pushed or mechanically blown snow is dense and slow to melt, and it can break a strong shrub right in two. Be careful not to pile snow on your plants by mechanical means as it will then need to be removed and might do damage you can't prevent.

Bent Branches: Tender branches (particularly conifers) may become broken or weighed down with heavy snow and can a hard time springing back into shape. The fallen snow can also melt and refreeze to form devastating ice.

Snow from Roofs: Remove snow from roofs (if you can safely), and remove the piles of snow that may cascade down onto your shrubs from the roof above. If your shrubs are right in the danger zone under a steep roof, you may want to protect them with a temporary wooden frame.

Snowplows can damage plants.



How to Remove Snow from Shrubs and Plants

Sweep Gently: Using a broom or your hands,

GENTLY sweep in an upward motion, loosening the snow and allowing it to fall. Don't sweep downward, as you might break an already bent branch, and don't shake the plant. The branches will be very brittle and already stressed, so disturb them as little as possible.



Sweep gently upwards to dislodge snow

Avoid Accumulation: You'll have much less damage to

from shrubs and other plants.

your plants if you remove snow after every couple of inches of accumulation, rather than waiting until it's deep.

Leave Ice Alone: Don't try to remove ice, as the branch will likely break. Once ice has formed, you really should just wait it out.

Gardening Tip

Some ambitious gardeners attach a water hose to a warm water faucet to melt ice on prized plants. If you do this, use lukewarm water, as sudden temperature changes can shock tender branches. Also be aware that the water may refreeze on the ground, creating very slick conditions. Unless you have a collection of priceless hybrids, this method really isn't worth the trouble. If you live in an ice-prone area, you're better off choosing plants that can recover from breakage.

Be Safe: Never try to remove snow or ice from overhead branches! There's a high risk of breakage, and you don't want heavy limbs falling on you, your house, or your car!



How to Prevent Damage to Plants

Tie Up Plants: Before the snow, use plant netting to tie up the branches of your conifers and soft shrubs, to prevent them from being misshapen or broken by snow. Tie them in a cone shape, to deflect snow off to the sides.



Move Containers: Put planters and containers under a shed or porch during snow and ice storms to keep freezing water from expanding and breaking containers.

Frozen container plant.

Keep Off Grass: Snow covered grass is fragile, easily uprooted, and susceptible to fungal diseases under the snow. Reducing foot traffic will help the snow stay light and melt faster, and it will keep your grass blades firmly rooted.

Avoid Salt: *Salt* can damage lawns and plants when it runs off your driveway. If your plants have been exposed to salt, water and rinse them well as soon as temperatures are above freezing. Next time, use sand or clay-based kitty litter instead of salt.

Prune Damaged Limbs: Head outdoors as soon as the ice melts to assess damage. Cracked branches can sometimes heal if they're firmly tied back in place. Broken branches should be pruned away immediately to prevent injury and disease. Ragged tears are very susceptible to infection, so remove damaged wood using clean cuts.

Wait for Spring: The extent of the damage often won't be clear until spring, when you find out if your plant will be able to spring back into shape. Wait for spring to do any staking or reshaping of bent plants, since winter branches are extremely brittle. In the spring they'll be much more supple.

What Is a Freeze? A freeze occurs when temperatures drop below the freezing point of water (32° F or 0° C). When the water inside a plant freezes, it can cause the plant cells to burst, resulting in irreparable damage.

What Is Frost? Frost occurs on clear, still nights. As the air temperature approaches freezing, the surface temperature of plants can dip below freezing, causing ice crystals to form in the same manner that dew forms on warmer nights. Because temperatures vary just a few feet above the ground, frost can form when your thermometer reads above freezing. Freezing temperatures may or may not be accompanied by frost.

Use a brightly colored ribbon so the birds can easily find the bird feeder, and hang it on a tree by a window so your kids can watch different types of birds enjoy a snack!

Materials:

- cardboard toilet-paper tube (or paper-towel tube cut in half)
- peanut butter
- knife
- birdseed
- 24 inch of ribbon (or just make it long enough to hang from tree branch)
- empty box
- scissors

Instructions:

Step 1: Spread a coat of peanut butter all over the cardboard tube.

Step 2: Pour birdseed into the empty box so there is a thin layer covering the bottom of the box.

Step 3: Roll the cardboard tube in birdseed so the seeds adhere to the peanut butter and cover the tube

Step 4: Thread a ribbon through the tube and tie ends together into a knot..

Step 5: Hang from a tree branch near your window and watch the birds feast!



From the Garden

Of Eva

- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 lb chicken tenders
- 1/4 cup butter, divided
- 2 cups heavy cream

Combine salt, chili powder, onion powder, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper. Sprinkle over both sides of chicken tenders.

In large saute pan, melt half of the butter over medium-high heat. Cook the chicken tenders until done, about 8 minutes.

Pour the cream and remaining butter into the skillet. Lower heat and simmer until the sauce thickens, about 5-7 minutes. Serve chicken and sauce over pasta or mashed potatoes, if desired.



Chicken Lazone

Creme de Menthe Cookies and Cream Tassies

- . In a medium bowl beat 1/4 cup whipping cream and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until soft peaks form (tips curl). Add 4 ounces softened cream cheese and 3 TB spoons sugar. Beat on medium-high speed until combined. Beat in 1 TB spoon green or white creme de menthe liqueur (or 1 tablespoon milk and 1/2 teaspoon mint extract). Set aside. Divide evenly 3/4 cup chopped chocolate sandwich cookies with white filling between 30 baked miniature phyllo dough shells. Top chopped cookies in each phyllo shell with some of the cream cheese mixture.
- . If desired, garnish with half of a miniature chocolate sandwich cookie with white filling.



Boozy Pumpkin White

Hot Chocolate

White hot chocolate with all the flavor of spicy pumpkin pie and a little booze for good measure.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips
(or chopped)
- 2.5 cups milk (I used 2%)
- 1/4 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/4 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 ounce Kahlua or 1/2 ounce Bourbon
- whipped cream and caramel for topping
(optional)

Instructions

1. In a saucepan over low-medium heat, melt the chocolate chips and 1/2 cup of the milk, whisking often (about 3 minutes).

2. Once melted, add the rest of the milk, the pumpkin and the pumpkin pie spice and stir vigorously to incorporate.

3. Pour a small amount of the hot chocolate into two serving glasses, add one ounce of Kahlua OR one-half ounce of bourbon (bourbon is much stronger in taste). Top off with hot chocolate, stir and then top with whipped cream, caramel sauce and more pumpkin pie spice (optional).



Notes

* Use non-dairy milk and non-dairy white chocolate to make this recipe vegan friendly.

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2017**

Architectural Plants

The first thing you might ask is what is an architectural plant? By this I mean a plant that has an unusual and distinctive form when compared to surrounding plants. This is mainly related to the branch structure which will be visible in the winter. It will often be covered with snow or ice to further draw attention to it. Some of the forms that fit into this would include:

- 1) Weeping
- 2) Horizontally tiered
- 3) Columnar

When picking plants with any of these forms, be sure that the bark is indeed an attractive color in the winter. It does not have to be red or yellow, brown is fine. You just want the bark and stem color to not be a dull grayish in the winter as this will be less visible.

Weeping

Weeping plants are probably the most commonly used architectural plants. These include narrow growing forms with weeping branches such as the Purple Fountain Weeping Beech or Weeping White spruce. It also includes plants that are wider growing such as the Weeping Norway Spruce, weeping crabapples, or Japanese Maples.



Horizontally tiered

These are plants that have a horizontal branch pattern such as Pagoda dogwood or Doublefile viburnum.

Architectural Plants Pagoda dogwood

Horizontal branch pattern – Pagoda dogwood

Horizontally tiered plants do not have as much visual weight as comparable weeping plants.



They do still draw the eye to look at them though. Depending on the size of the plant, these should be either used as a single specimen or smaller shrub forms can be used as accents repeated throughout the garden.

Two or three dwarf Doublefile viburnums placed throughout a landscape can provide a nice amount of repetition and tie the garden together.

Columnar

These are plants that grow straight up. They are typically narrower and fit into smaller urban lots better than their non-columnar counterparts. They often impart a formal feel to the garden. They are often used as architectural plants in the formal gardens of Europe. They can be narrow plants such as Hicks Yew which only grow 3-4 feet wide, or could be pine trees that only get 15 feet wide and 40 feet tall instead of 40 feet wide and high.

Columnar plants are often used as groupings that can serve special purposes such as screening of a view or otherwise creating a wall in the garden. When they are used by themselves they have a tremendous amount of visual weight due to their strong vertical element. So much so that you often cannot help but look at them. Use these plants individually only if this is what you are looking for.



Plant specific

There are other forms that are unique to specific plants such as the spiky Yucca's

. They are also often used in gardens designed using a minimalistic design.

They do stand out like few other plants in the winter.



Village Garden Center & Landscape Service

