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SIDE UP

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SERVING GLYNN, CAMDEN, MCINTOSH, WAYNE, LIBERTY, BRYAN & CHATHAM COUNTIES | FEBRUARY 2020

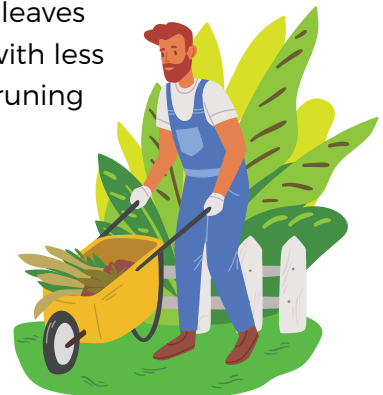


Shaping Up with an Early Spring Pruning

Early Spring pruning (February) is an important part of any good landscape maintenance program, and it's a great way to keep your trees and shrubs "in bounds" while helping them to maintain a pleasant shape.

It's much easier to see where pruning needs to be done during the winter (since leaves will have dropped). In addition, plants are less active during the winter months, with less fluid moving through the branches. This means that the wounds created from pruning will "bleed" less and will heal more quickly.

Trees and shrubs should be pruned in the winter to remove branches that overlap and rub against each other, to remove any dead wood, and to keep stray branches from blocking your driveway, walkways and windows. This will lead to healthier, better-looking trees and shrubs and a more functional, aesthetically pleasing landscape.



The only landscape plants that won't benefit from winter pruning are your spring-flowering shrubs. By winter, their buds will have been set for blooming, and pruning them would eliminate flowering in spring!



Deer Eating Your Landscape?

If you have lived in Southeast Georgia for any length of time, then you know that one facet of landscaping is dealing with the deer population nibbling on your beautiful landscape. Finding an effective deer repellent is the easy part. You can ask your landscaper, google for ideas or ask a friend what they use, and you will get a number of ways to repel deer. Here are just a few we found that will work.

- Fencing – electric and nonelectric
- Sprays and dusts – commercial and natural
- Activated sprayers
- Ultrasonic devices
- Netting
- Natural remedies: human hair, coyote urine, animal dung, deodorant soap, etc.
- Planting unfavorable plants
- Planting “lure” crops



All of these deer repellents are good ideas, and all have been used by one person or another. What you will end up realizing is that the repellent you found to work last year most likely will not work this year. The BEST thing that will help you in this battle is to learn all you can about deer. The more you understand deer, their habits and how they live the more you can keep them at bay. The following are a few facts that will help you begin to understand deer:

1. Deer populations are prevalent in certain areas because humans have built homes and businesses in rural deer habitats.
2. Deer are attracted to an area because there is food.
3. Deer eat vegetation. The fertilized plants in your landscape contain protein and supply deer with energy-rich carbohydrates, minerals and salts.
4. Does consume a lot of food when they are pregnant and nursing (typically in spring & summer) and bucks can eat up to 5 lbs. of food per day (any day of the year).
5. Deer receive 1/3 of their water from the moisture in irrigated plants.
6. When food is scarce deer will eat ANY plant or shrub.
7. Reduction of a herd of deer is not possible so begin your repellents when you first see damaged vegetation.



8. Trapping and relocating deer is often harmful and fatal to deer.
9. Deer do not like pungent aromas or bitter tastes.
10. Deer acclimate themselves to the areas they live in.

Understanding deer is just one weapon in your arsenal, you also need a collection of deterrents and change them up from time to time. You will need to know the “ins and outs” of the repellent you are using to know when they need to be applied and how often. Experiment with the repellents and know the likes and dislikes of the deer in your area. Deer can become accustomed to the repellents which mean what worked one year will not work the next. Planting undesirable plants like dad used to do, will not always work because a desperate deer will do desperate things, and this includes eating whatever they can find.

Knowing more about deer, stocking your arsenal and switching up the deterrents you use should give you a much better advantage over those sweet but devastating deer pillaging your vegetation.

Quick Tips for Early Spring

- This is a great time for cutting back your ornamental grasses. Old growth can be tied back with twine, and the grass should be cut 4” to 6” from the ground to spur new growth.
- Fruit trees, evergreens and many (but not all) deciduous trees and shrubs will benefit from being trimmed and shaped now, before new growth begins.
- Any perennial plants that were left standing over the winter can be cut back now. This will encourage new growth and blooms.
- Your landscape’s appearance can be greatly improved with a thorough edging and weeding of your plant beds.
- Any trees or shrubs that were planted in the fall will benefit from a long, slow watering once new leaves appear.





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Coastal Greenery is the grounds maintenance choice of property managers in Southeast Georgia — Savannah, Richmond Hill, Brunswick, St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island, Kingsland and St. Mary's. Embracing a proactive approach, Coastal Greenery's expert team offers professional landscaping services to manage Georgia's southeast backdrops. Our dedicated, experienced landscape professionals provide full-service property maintenance solutions for:



**Commercial and Office Parks | Homeowner Associations and Condominiums
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Defined by our horticultural expertise and superior workmanship, Coastal Greenery will customize your landscape program to suit your site and budget requirements. Visit us online to learn more and view our portfolio, or call to schedule a consultation with our property management team.

Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team

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