



green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING

Serving Beaufort, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Jasper, Liberty, McIntosh, Nassau, & Wayne Counties



Shaping Up with 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!

Properties of the Month: JANUARY

Marshland Credit Union
Golden Isles



Villa Marie
Savannah



Ray Miller Enhancement
Support Services



Hodnett Cooper
South



Each Property of the Month
is selected by the Branch
Manager according to
the crew's monthly
Quality Control report.

Hard Pruning Isn't a Pretty Sight

It is that time of year to start the task of hard pruning. Hard pruning is cutting (not whacking) back certain plant material that may be overgrown or needs reshaping. More times than not, this plant material will not look pretty when the process is completed. When shrubs go through a hard pruning, the branches are exposed, and it looks like the plant was "whacked" down or had an unfortunate meeting with hedge trimmers. **BE PATIENT AND CALM!** The plant material will recover, grow in and be beautiful in no time.



Pruning a Crepe Myrtle Correctly

The gnarled mass seen on many Crepe Myrtle tree limbs is due to the method used to prune the tree. Pruning a Crepe Myrtle correctly will allow for no scar tissue to create a knot in the trunk. Correct pruning will take a little more thought and time but will leave you with a beautiful tree, bare or with leaves and flowers.

Pruning a crepe myrtle is pretty simple, the object being.....to prune the tree by thinning out the branches and trunks to allow air to circulate and allow for new growth.



Steps to Prune a Crepe Myrtle

- **Make a plan!**
- **Step back and look at the tree - don't just jump in and start cutting.** You are shaping the future growth of a crepe myrtle so the plan will need to encompass how the tree will grow and in what direction.
- **Start your plan with the trunk of the tree.** The plan will need to revolve around the removal of any trunk(s) and branches. Remove a trunk if it is not needed as a frame for the tree. Removal of branches is for air circulation and future growth.
- **Remove any trunk(s) to maintain a good frame for the Crepe Myrtle.** If you need to remove a trunk you will want to cut the trunk at the base of the tree as close as you can get to the soil.
- After pruning the trunk, look at the base of the tree and **remove any suckers.**
- **Next, move to the canopy of the tree.** Begin cutting back branches to thin out the canopy. It is your choice at what height you want branching to begin to grow on the tree. This decision will determine if you need

Team Members of the Month: JANUARY

Devonta Brantley
Golden Isles



Malcolm Collins
Support Services



Wendell McMillan
Savannah



Shelbie MacMullen
South



*These team members display our core values (**Responsive, Ownership, Observant, Trusted, Skillful**) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.*

to remove any lower branches. Branches will need to be cut back to the trunk. Remove weak branches and branches that will be a hazard or damage property as it grows.

- Once you have pruned the frame of trunk(s) and branches, you will want to **clean up any remaining branches** of weak growth and small stems.



The final outcome of the crepe myrtle should be a beautiful, strong frame of a tree with branches that are far enough apart to allow for air circulation. Keep this “Rule of Thumb” in mind... the branches and trunks need to be far enough apart for a small bird to fly through.

PLEASE DO NOT take the easy way and whack the entire top of the tree off. Doing this leaves the tree to develop huge “knotted” scars. It also causes the new growth to grow from these scars that will produce a very unnatural looking tree. The growth from these “knotted” scars will make the tree unproportioned and only allows for thin branches to return the following spring which most likely are too weak to hold the beautiful flowers the crepe myrtle produces.

Keep in mind that you want branches left on the tree that are growing in all directions and not just one direction because this can make the tree look unnatural. Prune your crepe myrtle in late winter and use sharp tools. If you have any questions about how to prune a crepe myrtle, ask a professional. Respect your tree and it will provide you with beauty all year long!

Crepe Myrtle Facts

- There are approximately 50 species of crepe myrtle.
- Crepe myrtle derives its name from the look and texture of the flowers.
- Most crepe myrtles shed their bark during the year.
- The color of crepe myrtle flowers come in almost any shade of purple, pink, red or white.
- Crepe myrtles are popular due to their long-lasting flowers, which bloom in Summer and Autumn.
- The crepe myrtle is not attractive to deer
- Crepe myrtles will flower more reliably if it gets 8 - 10 hours of full sun a day.
- Crepe myrtles can be used as a tree or shrub
- Leaves of a crepe myrtle appear opposite each other along the stem
- Common names of the crepe myrtle include Queen of Flowers, Cuddle Tree and Pride of India.



Coastal Greenery 2025 WINTER PRUNING SCHEDULE

Crepe Myrtles

January 2, 2025 – January 24, 2025

Ornamental Grasses

January 27, 2025 – February 7, 2025

Perennials

February 10, 2025 – February 21, 2025

(*Lantana, Mexican Heather, Crinum Lily, Liriope,*
Flax Lily, Mexican Petunia, Aztec Grass, ETC.)

Renewal Pruning

February 24, 2025 – March 14, 2025



Your Licensed Professionals Deliver Value.

As in any profession, it's important that we know our job. With hundreds of plant varieties, insects and diseases, professional knowledge means more professional results. You may not realize that most professional lawn technicians and applicators must meet special training and testing requirements from the EPA and state in order to be licensed or certified to work with your lawn or landscape. Then, for certification to be maintained, on-going education and training must continue every year.

Before we work on your lawn, you can be sure we not only know what we're doing, but how to do it best.

This means better results and fewer problems for you when you employ only carefully trained and certified professionals to work on your lawn and landscape.

Count on us for care that's our professional best... for you and for the earth we all share!

Our team
appreciates
your
feedback
and
support!

Scan here
& share
your
thoughts
with us!



Golden Isles Branch
Review



Savannah Branch
Review



South Branch
Review



Have a question or concern? We're here to help.
Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team
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