

What should I do to protect my landscape for the winter?

Believe it or not, now is the time to start thinking about “winterizing” your landscape. Living in the New England area has its challenges. Most of the landscape in our region likes to go into dormancy for the winter. Last week we had our first plow-able snow and today the temperature is approaching 70°. Making sure that all the leaves are removed from the grass and bed areas will help you in the spring. It is much easier to remove them when they are dry, rather than wet. Now, I know that most of you hate to rake leaves, but I promise not all of them will blow over to your neighbor’s house this winter.

Cut your grass to a shorter height (2” or less). This will help with winter burn. Install any fall fertilizer if you haven’t already. Make sure you use a “safe” product for ice melt for your walkway and driveway. There are many products out so choose one that is safe.

Make sure that you trim back any wild grasses or shrubbery before it snows, this will certainly help with new growth in the spring. Trim all dead branches or trees on your property. This should go without saying. We have had, and will continue to have, large storms move in with high winds that can certainly do some damage if they fall down.

Mulch or hay any new planting material that you may have. This will act like a winter blanket and provide some extra warmth.

If you have an automatic irrigation system, make sure that it gets blown out. Leaving any water in these lines will certainly cause damage when you go to turn it on in the spring.

Install snow stakes in your driveway area as well as walkways. Plows and snow blowers can certainly cause damage to lawns and beds, and from what I am hearing, our area will be plowing a lot this winter.

Get a jump on next year's spring projects. The busiest time for landscapers is generally in the spring so you might want to find companies who will offer discounts for "pre-booked" spring work. GOOD LUCK THIS WINTER AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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