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Late Fall



DEFY THE DRY WITH ANTIDESICCANTS

Though evergreens are known for their ability to stay green throughout the winter, their foliage is still susceptible to turning brown, and even falling off, as a result of winter burn. This condition is a result of winter's bright sun and dry winds pulling moisture out of evergreen needles and leaves. It's made even worse when frozen soil prevents roots from taking up enough water.

The best way to protect against winter burn is to have your evergreens treated with an antidesiccant spray in the fall. Antidesiccants, also known as antitranspirants, are biodegradable latex materials that form a barrier against dry winter winds and help to seal moisture inside needles and leaves. The spray wears off when new growth begins again in the spring.

An added benefit to antidesiccants is their tendency to make evergreen needles and leaves shine in sunny conditions. So, not only can your valuable trees and shrubs be protected, but they can be made to look prettier too!

Steering Clear of Deer

FEEDING DAMAGE CAN BE PREVENTED

Who hasn't felt the frustration of deer nibbling on their plants at one time or another? Not only can their feeding activity compromise the looks and health of your landscape, but deer can cause considerable damage by rubbing their antlers against tree bark as well.

One strategy for preventing deer damage is to stick with plant species that deer don't usually feed on. Some of these include barberry, paper birch, common boxwood, Russian olive, American holly, drooping leucothoe and Colorado blue spruce. However, no species is completely immune from damage, since deer will feed on just about any plant if they're hungry enough. That's why alternative strategies such as deer repellents, netting and fencing may be more practical.

DEER REPELLENTS

There are two types of deer repellents: contact repellents and area repellents. Contact repellents cause plants to taste bad through direct application to the plant. Area repellents discourage deer by creating a foul odor in a problem area. Both hot sauce and chicken egg/water mixtures have been proven effective as contact repellents. Predator urine (coyote, for example) works well as an area repellent.

NETTING AND FENCING

Netting provides an effective barrier against deer when wrapped around smaller plants.

This flexible material can also be combined with support stakes to form protective fences around larger plantings.

For maximum protection, or if deer are a really big problem in your landscape, you may want to go all out with a conventional deer-proof fence. These are constructed of woven wire and should be at least 8' high. Electric fences are another possibility in extreme situations.

Your landscape doesn't have to serve as a buffet for hungry deer. To learn more about preventing feeding damage, call Silvis Group today.



Deer-feeding damage on hostas.



KEY POINTS

- Hungry deer will feed on just about any plant.
- Feeding damage can be prevented with repellents, netting and fencing.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

We hope you've enjoyed having Silvis Group on your property this year, and we appreciate your continued confidence in our abilities. As always, we welcome your feedback. If there's something you think we can improve upon, please let us know. And if you're particularly pleased with a certain aspect of our service, we'd like to hear about it.

Have you got a friend or neighbor who you think could benefit from our services? Please have them contact us to set up a consultation. We'd love the opportunity to provide them with the same great service you've grown accustomed to.

It's been a pleasure working with you, and we'll see you again in the spring!



Easy Ways to Keep Insects at Bay

Just like us, insects would rather not be left out in the cold this winter. Our homes are a perfect source of shelter from the elements, and it's that time of year when all sorts of bugs start making a run for the indoors.

So what can you do to stop them? For starters, it's a good idea to seal up any obvious points of entry. These include gaps around doors, window frames, dryer vents and utility openings. Torn screens in windows or doors should also be repaired or replaced.

The food we eat is attractive to bugs, so be sure not to leave food out and sweep up crumbs regularly. Dirty dishes shouldn't be left out either.

Check any houseplants that you bring inside for the winter too, since insects might be trying to hitch a ride. And if you'll be storing firewood inside, keep in mind that it may be harboring insects as well.

Finally, consider having your home treated with a barrier spray. Applied around the perimeter of your house and to other common points of entry, a barrier spray will keep most insects outdoors where they belong!



A barrier spray can prevent insect pests from entering your home.



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Dormant Pruning

TIMING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

No matter what types of trees and shrubs you have, regular, professional pruning is a key to keeping them healthy. Proper pruning will help to prevent structural problems, control decay or disease, and lessen the chances of wind and storm damage in severe weather.

While pruning can certainly be done any time of the year, most trees and shrubs respond best if they're pruned in the fall or winter (while they're dormant).

Pruning at this time doesn't interfere with future buds or new growth, and it's easier to see where pruning needs to take place after leaves have fallen. As the ground hardens with cooler weather, there's less possibility of damaging your lawn. Plus, your family probably won't be on your lawn as much, so pruning will cause less of a disruption than it would during the summer months.

If you have any questions about dormant pruning, please give Silvis Group a call.

