

The Greener Side

By Jeff Webeler

Landscape Tips for December



What? It's the Christmas Season...

Landscaping now? I know its December and the Holiday rush is on and there are plenty of reasons why most people think gardening stops with the first frost. Let me remind you that winter does not officially begin until December 22. Of course our annuals and perennials have all finished for the season but here are some tips to do now that will improve your landscape in the future.

Every gardening year brings new challenges to overcome, 2007 had plenty. Starting with the freeze in April followed by oppressive heat and drought stress our plants all took a beating. Most are recovering nicely with recent rains. This is a great time add fertilizer to build back damaged roots. Use **Espoma "Plant-tone"** on most trees and shrubs and **"Holly-tone"** for holly, azalea and other acid loving plants.

Warm weather lasting well into the fall this year, kept many leaves on the trees longer than normal, so clean-up has been necessary into late November, or if you are like me and just now getting around to it, it's

not too late. Just get them up before they smother out any grass.

Our lawns also took a beating this summer. Wait until spring to do any over-seeding; however it is definitely not too late to apply a good root-building fertilizer like **Scotts "Super Turf-Builder with Winterguard"** or **Ferti-lome "Lawn Food Plus Iron"**.

Add mulch to you landscape beds after the ground freezes. Besides keeping weeds down in spring, improving moisture retention, preventing roots from heaving with the freezing and thawing, it just looks great all winter.

There are definitely some great deals to be had in the nursery department. Remember you can successfully continue to plant trees and shrubs up until the ground is frozen. Plants planted in fall rest in their winter dormant period; then wake up in spring, begin growing before they realize they have been moved.

If for no other reason just get outside and enjoy the fresh crisp air of autumn. Being a gardener I take the more optimistic view of the beginning of winter; just think after the 22nd the days will be getting longer and spring is right around the corner.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Visit us on line at

www.WhiteOakGardenCenter.com



White Oak
Garden Center, Inc.

3579 Blue Rock Rd. / Cincinnati, OH 45247 / 385-3313

LANDSCAPE • GREENHOUSE • NURSERY