

## Early Winter To-Do List:

- This is still the time to plant your hardy trees, shrubs and perennials! Our climate is mild enough to allow planting throughout late fall and winter, as long as the ground isn't frozen.
- Although not 100% necessary, roses may be cut down to about waist high now to prevent damage caused by strong winds. You will be finishing the pruning in late winter or early spring.
- If you have tender plants outside that need to come in, or are planning on lifting bulbs like Dahlias and Cannas, this is the time to do it!
- Provide winter protection as necessary to tender plants, it's going to get cold really quickly now.
- The pruning season has begun! The best time to prune most plants is in the winter months. There are a few important exceptions to this, which are plants that bloom in early spring and have already set their flower buds, such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias, Pieris, Forsythia, Spring-Blooming Clematis, and a few others.



Volume 2, Issue 10

November 14th, 2008

## Winter in the Garden

As we move into the wetter, colder months, gardeners start to move back inside where it's warm and cozy, and the plants settle down for their winter sleep. Winter is a really important season in the garden however, a time for preparation, and a time for reflection. Spring will be back before we know it, the gardening gears will start grinding, and we will all be busy again doing what we love the most.

Winter is the season to reflect on the past and to dream for the future. To sort out the good from the bad, and to plan the next big thing for the upcoming spring. It is a season of preparation, to clean and replace tools, prepare equipment, make lists of plants, and to write down all of the things that you kept forgetting to do last spring. It's a time to learn, to read a book on gardening, and to maybe learn a better way of doing things.

Winter is also a season of maintenance. Winter is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs (with a few exceptions, as noted to the left in the to-do list), and is still a fine time to plant if you wish to brave the weather. The season for dormant spray will be coming up soon, so that you can protect your fruit trees from next year's insects and disease.

Farmington Gardens is open year round, so feel free to stop by with all of your questions and plant needs!

## Inside...

Christmas is coming up soon, and we are busily transforming the store for the Holiday Season! Look inside for more information on our seasonal products and upcoming events!



## Oh The Weather Outside is Frightful...

Winter is approaching, and we have already experienced one of the first real storms of the season, bringing several inches of rain to our area over a matter of days. Late Fall and Winter can introduce many different weather extremes that may affect your landscape, especially your trees. It is important to understand these potential issues, so we are going to go over some points to consider this fall and winter.

First, it is very important to note that healthy, well planted, properly selected and located trees will rarely have issues in the winter months, and if they do they are generally minor. It is the unhealthy, the neglected, and the injured trees that fail, and they are the ones that cause panic and give other trees a bad name. Unfortunately, many urban and suburban trees fall into the second category, and they are the ones that make the news when disaster strikes.

Trees are large, stationary organisms that, unlike you and I, cannot just get up and move when things get uncomfortable. In nature, trees grow where they are best suited, and do not survive unless the conditions are right. Landscape trees are planted where we want them to go, and the trees are expected to adapt to whatever gets thrown at them.

As a tree becomes older, it becomes more set in its ways and resistant to change, while young trees are far more adaptable and forgiving. Every change we make to their environment, whether it be building a patio nearby, raising the soil level or adding plants, adding irrigation, excavating, whatever we do, it has an effect. This effect may be minor, and not cause any major problems long-term, it may be minor but chronic, which over time turns into a bigger problem, or it could be a major effect, like trenching in a circle a few feet from the trunk. Trees have great poker faces though, and often don't show major signs of stress for several years, or until they are tested by a major weather event.

Since we are heading into the stormy season, we thought it would be good to go over some of the hazards that winter may bring us. Keep reading on the next page to find out more!



## Oh The Weather Outside is Frightful... Continued

Water, water everywhere. We live in Oregon, and of course, it rains. A lot. Combined with heavy or overworked and neglected soil, some of your landscapes are *really* wet during the winter. Deciduous trees may go dormant in winter, but they are still very much alive, and still breathing.



Roots need oxygen to survive, and flooded or perpetually wet soils are almost completely lacking in available oxygen. What this means is that the fine feeder roots will eventually suffocate and die if the water doesn't drain, and eventually the root mass of the tree will shrink and negatively affect important things like stability, growth, and the ability to get water to the foliage again in spring. If this condition is really persistent, more and larger roots will start to die, and then your tree may suffer significant dieback and perhaps even become unstable.



Unstable trees have a major enemy - wind. Trees are really an engineering marvel, and certainly a balancing act of magnificent proportions. Considering the sheer mass of an established tree, it is amazing how everything is balanced and anchored to keep it standing. The root system of a tree is what keeps it anchored, and if that system becomes damaged or shrinks, the balancing act becomes, well, off balance. Trees still have a remarkable ability to keep standing even if severely damaged, but if you combine a really damaged tree with waterlogged soil, and a strong, sudden gust of wind coming from an uncommon direction, you may suddenly find yourself with a lot of firewood.

We occasionally get some fierce ice storms here in Oregon, where freezing rain encases the entire region in ice. The cold isn't the issue in these cases, it's the weight. Again, trees are a balancing act. They grow enough roots to hold up a corresponding amount of tree, and slowly adjust this as needed. An ice storm adds an enormous amount of unexpected weight to the frame of a tree, and if the roots are damaged or compromised, this could spell trouble. Ice storms are also quick to bring down dead or weakly attached branches.



## Oh The Weather Outside is Frightful... Continued

Trees can, and do fail sometimes in the winter months. It is important to understand though that trees do not fail without reason or cause. Healthy trees that are well maintained and in a proper location rarely, if ever fail. The upcoming storms will undoubtedly cause some tree failures, and it will get people worried about the trees in their own yards.

The important thing is to not panic or do anything extreme to your trees. If you have taken good care of your trees, they will not let you down. If you suspect that your tree may be damaged or a potential hazard, or your tree does get damaged this winter, call an arborist to assess the situation and give you advice to remedy the problem!



## Thank You for a Very Successful Fall Food Drive!

We would like to thank all of you that made our 2008 Fall Canned Drive such a huge success! The Fall Canned Food Drive is a yearly Farmington Gardens Tradition, and this year was the best year ever! With your help, we collected over 1700 pounds of food this fall, which goes to the Oregon Food Bank to help those in need in Oregon. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to doing it again next fall!



## Survey Says...

Our 2008 Speaker and Workshop Series was a great success! We saw many of you here at the store as we delved into everything from chickens in your backyard to the latest and greatest in the world of plants. We greatly value your opinion, and would like to get some feedback on this year's class and workshop series as we prepare for the 2009 gardening season. We have prepared a short survey that will give us a better idea of what you are all looking for when it comes to gardening events, and we hope you'll take a few moments to help us to keep enhancing our lineup, and also to help make our programs more useful and applicable to your gardening needs. You can reach our survey at the following address:

<http://www.survey.farmingtongardens.com>



## The Holidays at Farmington Gardens

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is coming up so quickly, and that Christmas is only a little over a month away! During this season, Farmington Gardens transforms into your source for quality decorations and greenery to brighten up your holidays! We are one of the largest producers of Christmas wreaths and garland in the country, and always stay well stocked with the freshest, fullest, and most beautiful wreaths that you can find. All of our products are handmade from fresh, locally harvested materials, and we carry sizes and styles to meet any decorating need!



**Garland and Wreath**



**22" Specialty Wreath**

holiday charm.

If you have friends, relatives, or business associates who live out of town, we are once again offering our very popular online wreath shipping service! A Northwest wreath is always greatly appreciated, especially by those who don't live in our beautiful region, and is a very timely and functional gift! Our wreath prices include a personalized gift card and bow, and UPS shipping is automatically calculated once you have all of your shipping addresses entered. You can now order shipped wreaths online at:

<http://store.farmingtongardens.com>

Besides our hand-made products, we carry a wide range of cut and living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, and Holiday Décor! We look forward to seeing you this Holiday Season!

Our wreaths are made from locally harvested Noble Fir, berried Juniper, and Ponderosa Pine cones, and come in a wide range of sizes, from 12" to nearly 6' in diameter! We have several different configurations, from our "Classic" wreath, to the lush "Specialty", which adds White Pine and Holly for a more elegant appearance. We also have variations on the classic wreath that include candy canes, swags, arches, and crosses.

Our Garland is made from 100% locally harvested Western Red Cedar, and is perfect for adding a linear accent to your decorating. Available in 15', 25', and 75' lengths, our garland is a very versatile product that adds a lot of decorative greenery and



**22" Classic Wreath**

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Farmington Gardens is a  
 Licensed Landscape Con-  
 tracting Business in the  
 State of Oregon—

OLCB# 8633



## Upcoming Events

### Mid November through Christmas

*Come visit us this Holiday Season as Farmington Gardens undergoes its yearly holiday transformation. Wreaths, Garland, Cut and Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, and much more await you and your family! We carry a large stock of freshly cut, locally grown Christmas Trees, including Noble Fir, Grand Fir, Douglas Fir, and others!*



### November 22

11 AM

#### Thanksgiving Holiday Centerpiece

Carving out a beautiful pumpkin, create your own one-of-a-kind centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table, buffet, or front porch. A great piece to welcome your holiday guests.

*Class fee: \$30. Space is limited and pre-registration is required – call us at 503-649-4568.*

### January 24 (2009)

11 AM

#### The Buzz About Mason Bees

Beth Rose from Farmington Gardens will share with us about these fascinating creatures, which are so easy to incorporate into your landscape! These hard-working insects are the most effective pollinators we have – much more so than the honeybee. They are also much less aggressive, rarely stinging or chasing – which makes them perfect for our outdoor family spaces. If you have a fruit tree or two, or blueberry bushes in your backyard, then you should consider the addition of this GREEN and SUSTAINABLE ally in your garden. We will also have on hand nesting boxes and replacement tubes.

*Class is free. Please call us at 503-649-4568 to register.*