

## SPRING 2015

Winter 2014/15 had a slow start, but January finally brought the snow and frigid temperatures we have come to expect in southeastern Wisconsin.

This is a perfect time to make sure your properties are prepared for another growing season. Many plans are underway for early spring pruning and clean up before the grass needs to be cut. Think about new plants you may want to add to your perennial beds.



## IT'S COLD OUTSIDE, BUT SPRING IS COMING!

Contrary to how we may feel right now, the calendar is definitely telling us we are getting closer to warmer days, daffodils blooming, and hearing the sounds of many birds in the midst of their daily activities.

This also means we have much work to do...dormant pruning, renewing service contracts, checking out the latest landscaping trends, planning what plants should be used this year, and insuring equipment and manpower are prepared for another season.

## WHAT SHOULD BE HAPPENING NOW?

- Dormant pruning of trees, summer-blooming shrubs, or anything dead, diseased or damaged.
- Cut back ornamental grasses (March)
- Check lawn (if the snow is gone) for mole damage or snow mold
- Start spring clean-up (remove accumulated debris, leaves, etc...)
- Survey gardens for pest damage and what plants need replacing

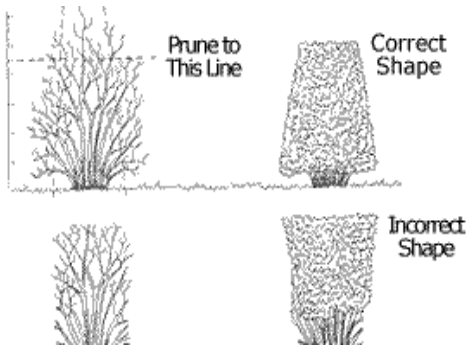
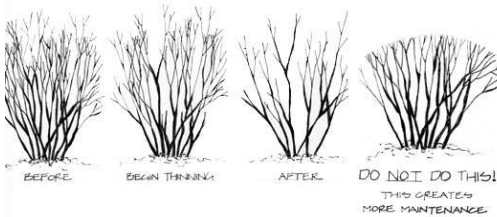
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*Consider Craftmaster Land Design for maintaining your landscape. We will develop a customized, horticulturally-based, cost-effective program to meet your specific needs and budget.*

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## WHY IS PRUNING IMPORTANT?

Pruning can help control the size of the plant, direct growth, influence flowering or fruiting, rejuvenate old, overgrown plants, or maintain plant health and appearance. Pruning a shrub encourages growth below the pruning cut. Pruning trees can also help prevent safety problems from broken, diseased, dead, or dying branches.



**Summer-flowering shrubs** should also be pruned when they are dormant or in early spring before budbreak. These shrubs produce flower buds on new growth in the spring, so if you delay pruning until late spring or early summer, you will remove many flower buds (for example...hydrangeas, roses, spirea, rose-of-Sharon, potentilla).

**Spring-flowering shrubs** produce flower buds on one-year-old wood (wood produced the preceding season), so it is best to prune after they have flowered in spring but before the next year's flower buds are set. It won't harm the plant if done prior to flowering, but it will reduce the amount of flowers (for example...lilacs, forsythia, viburnums, honeysuckle, chokeberry, mockorange, and weigela).

Methods of pruning depend on the type of plant and what you want to accomplish. Some common techniques are listed below.

- **Thinning and renewal** preserve the overall plant shape by selectively removing interior branches, down to the base of shrubs. This is the most commonly used technique.
- **Heading back** reduces the height of a shrub by removing each branch back to a larger branch or bud.
- **Rejuvenation** restores overgrown or leggy shrubs by cutting the entire plant back to a height of 4 - 10 inches from the ground (potentilla, spirea).
- **Shearing** removes new shoots to eliminate the shrub's natural form and create a specific shape for formal hedges (yews, boxwoods, privets).



## WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Through this seasonal newsletter, Craftmaster Land Design will update you on topics that are of concern for maintaining your property. We welcome your questions at any time. We are available for consultation, and providing a quote for services or just answering your landscaping and maintenance questions.



## Contact Us

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