



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Save money using trees and shrubs**
- **Yard 'To-Do' Checklist**
- **Discounts and Specials**
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Cut Costs With A Winter Landscape | 1 |
| January 'To-Do' List | 2 |
| Pruning's Important... | 3 |
| Monthly Specials | 3 |
| Letter to Our Customers | 4 |

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Quality News

Cut Costs With A Winter Landscape

Use trees and shrubs to lower your energy bills...

While you may not have thought of winter landscaping, there are plenty of benefits to doing it now. One benefit is little to no planting stress. Another is flexibility in scheduling (weather permitting). Finally, reduced fuel costs in future years...which are high enough already! The fact is, you can cut your cost by some 40%. One way is to plan wind-breaks around your property (on the west, east and north) to avoid wind blowing at the house. As these plants grow, they insulate your home enough to reduce your fuel costs.



The best wind-breaks available to you are trees and shrubs that have a low crown.

They move the wind over the house instead of at it. So plant an evergreen, along with a natural berm. Avoid planting large evergreens on the South side of your home. Planting deciduous trees will allow the sun to heat up your home once the leaves have dropped. You should also consider how tall the plants will grow. Plant them at least 1-3 feet from your home depending on the variety.

Winter landscaping can also add curb appeal. But keep in mind that there could be some winter maintenance as well. For instance, heavy accumulation of snow should be removed promptly to prevent damage to trees and shrubs.

You can also select plants and trees that will attract birds during the winter-time. Choose plants that produce brightly colored berries or one that has a unique color, style or shape. You may want a plant that has a unique bark texture to add even more interest. Consider a cranberry bush viburnum, which produces lots of berries. It also puts out beautiful flowers in the middle of May and June. It can add interest to your winter landscaping and provides something unique in an otherwise boring winter wonderland!

Another option is the Japanese barberry. It will grow to four or six feet and will have striking red purple leaves during autumn. It also produces berries to bring the birds in.



Japanese Barberry

For more information on these and other ideas call **836-4000** and schedule a personal complimentary consultation. At that time we can discuss your concerns and a plan of action.

January 'To-Do' List



**Water deep
this month...
at least 18"**

"Most trees and shrubs have settled down for their long winter nap, so now is an ideal time to start pruning."

This month's list may be shorter than most but it is vital to follow. Make sure to stick to it in order to avoid issues in the coming spring season.

- Cleanup! – If you look out at the yard and see those little tid-bits of debris (pine needles, leaves, small tree branches, etc.), they have got to go. A small pile that may have gathered in the corner of the yard can become a big problem. That "small" amount of debris can invite breeding grounds for pests and/or disease. Both can attack trees, shrubs and the lawn as well, becoming a possible costly problem later.
- Water is still a must – With the typical lack of winter moisture in our area, trees, shrubs and the lawn will more than likely need some water this month. You can get away with 1 watering per month for this month and next month. The trees and shrubs will need a deep root watering down to 18" or more to be most beneficial for the plant.
- Dormant Pruning – Most trees and shrubs have settled down for their long winter nap, so now is an ideal time to start pruning. Please keep in mind that the fruit trees should typically wait until February unless you have a very established tree, and then you can usually get away with pruning it now.
- It's a Perfect Time To Plan – Are there changes that you would like to see to your yard? Maybe a new garden bed, lawn installation, xeriscape area, or even a new water feature. Now is the time to start thinking about changes. The best thing to do is take a tape measure and measure our the entire yard, wall to wall. Then measure out the feature you currently have. Make a copy of the original and start drawing in the feature(s) you want to change or add. If this seems like a little much, call us and we would be happy to help.

We understand that it is cold outside and most people don't want to get out in the yard until it warms up. If that's you, give us a call at 836-4000 and allow us to take care of this list for you.

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twitter



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO FOLLOW QLC ON TWITTER AND GET GARDENING ARTICLES, LANDSCAPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS, SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AND MORE!



Check Out Our January Plant Specials

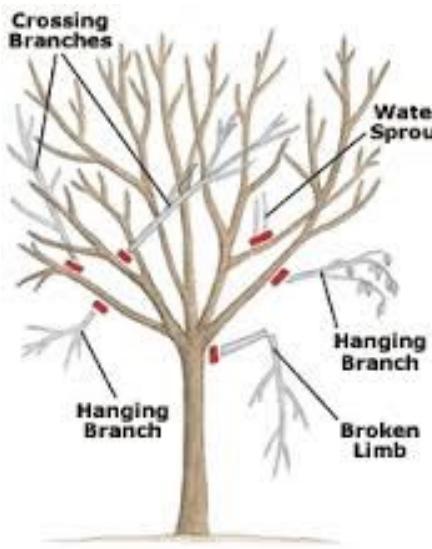
This month we are giving 20% off some evergreen trees and shrubs. They are perfect for reducing energy costs (see cover story) or just to add some new hedges. Check out our website at www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com or scan the QR code to the right. You can also call our office at 836-4000 to ask about our discounted trees and shrubs this month.



Pruning's Important...Do It Right!

January is a perfect time to prune most trees, especially fruit trees, due to the fact that they are in their dormant stage. However, there is a method to pruning that must be followed, not only to make the trees look better, but to keep them in good health as well.

By pruning in the winter, you are reducing stress on the tree because most of the nutrients or sap has been taken back down to the roots and is no longer residing so much in the branches. Also, with the leaves gone, it is much easier to identify water sprouts and crossing branches. Unfortunately, with no leaves it will make it more difficult to identify dead wood for removal, so here's a little tip; in the fall, before the tree has lost most of its leaves, look for dead branches that need removal and cut them at that time or tie a strap around that branch to mark it for winter removal.



When pruning your tree, you are looking for 5 objects to remove, both for the health of the tree and for aesthetic purposes. In addition to the aforementioned dead wood, crossing branches and water sprouts, you are also looking for broken limbs (usually caused by wind or heavy snow damage) and hanging limbs (ones that dip below the desired canopy height or taking away from the look of upward growth). To find all of these takes somewhat of a trained eye and may require two people to do properly...one to prune and one to stand back and point out the problem branches and make sure the trimming is being done evenly.

As far as proper pruning techniques, small branches (like water sprouts) that are the thickness of a pencil or slightly larger can be clipped off by a simply set of sharp pruners. Larger and heavier branches will require 3 cuts in order to keep from breaking and harming the tree.

What about trimming evergreens? When should they be trimmed? The answer is the same as most deciduous trees...in the winter.

Though evergreens are still colorful in the colder months, they are still as dormant as possible. They will also be less likely to be damaged at this time of year. Most evergreens can be "shaped up" or lightly pruned at almost any time of year, but winter is the time for any "aggressive" pruning.

We understand that tree pruning can be a difficult task. If you are unsure of proper techniques or need help getting it done, call our office at 836-4000 to schedule an appointment.

Did you know...

The presence of trees in urban neighborhoods has been linked to less crime.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.

Broccoli is a vegetable with a nervous system. Primitive though it may be, it CAN feel pain.

There is a flower called the Scarlet Pimpernel that can forecast the weather. If the flower is closed up, rain is coming and if it is opened up, the day will be sunny. It is also called 'the poor man's weatherglass'.



January Special



LAST CHANCE to take advantage of our \$20 OFF special!

~On services totaling \$100 or more~

Must mention coupon for discount. Expires 1/31/2015.

Not valid with any other offers.

Call 836-4000 or Email us at ABQqualitylawncare@msn.com



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"Give your yard some Q.L.C."

Inside this issue:

- January 'Yard To-Do"
- Cut Energy Costs
- Time To Prune
- And More...

Newsletter by Ryan Seabrook
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A letter to our customers

Happy New Year! We hope your holiday was a very special and joyous one. It's hard to believe that 2015 is here already! At QLC, we are always excited to start a new year with our customers. We would like to invite you to schedule your free estimate for a yearly yard maintenance plan this month. Call us to set up an appointment and keep that yard looking good all year long.

Thank you all so much for your business and your support!

-Your Q.L.C. Staff

Or Current Resident

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www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com

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Code...



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