



# Quality News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2015

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Trimming Myths**
- **Yard 'To-Do' Checklist**
- **Discounts and Specials**
- **Follow us on Facebook and Twitter**

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## 3 Tree And Shrub Trimming Myths You Should Avoid

*What 'Do-It-Yourselfers' tend to get*

When it comes to trimming or pruning trees and shrubs there are many pitfalls you should avoid. The average homeowner is not an arborist so they may just start cutting 'willy-nilly' wherever and whenever. Then, of course, our office becomes flooded with calls asking, "what's wrong with my trees and shrubs?" Quite frequently the answer is simple..."you shouldn't have trimmed that yet", or, "you can't prune it like that". So, let's go over some common misconceptions of trimming to avoid future costly mistakes.

### **If the tree/shrub is healthy, you can trim it anytime.**

If this is something you've heard and believe then I want you to delete all memory of ever having heard it in the first place, because it couldn't be further from the truth. Timing is a major factor when it comes to trimming and the sustained health of plant life. It is true that some minor pruning may be done on shrubs for a pleasing shape almost any time, but there are exceptions. For example, flowering shrubs such as Spanish Brooms should **ONLY** be pruned after flowering otherwise you'll affect the plants ability to produce future flowers. Just as well, fruit trees being trimmed during the growing season will not only affect future fruit production, but it will affect the overall health of the tree itself. The fruit tree can't choose where to send its nutrients so it will continue to send them to the fruit instead of the fresh wounds/cuts, thus, not allowing new wounds to properly heal. If you are unsure when to trim, you're safest course of action is to do so in the winter, just after the coldest point.

**Branches that are struggling at the ends should just be cut off.** I've heard this from many people, believe it or not, to which I respond "you don't shave your head because you have a few split ends, and you certainly don't cut off your arm simply because you have a hangnail." Creating larger wounds by unnecessarily removing branches will cause the trees' overall health to decline as it sends its nutrients to the wound instead of dispersing them throughout the whole canopy. Always service

the problem area on the smallest scale possible before taking drastic measures.

### **Roses should be pruned to the ground before winter.**

This may be true in the Northern United States, but it's not true here. Due to our usually mild winter temperatures here in central New Mexico, drastic pruning of roses down to almost nothing left invites the possibility of pests or disease. Any "major" rose pruning should be done in our climate on or shortly after April 1st. As far as winter rose pruning is concerned, you should only be removing branches that have

the potential to be damaged by high winds or heavy snowfall (essentially only branches that could be broken by the effects of weather over the winter).

There are many more myths about tree and shrub trimming so, if you're not sure about what you should be doing, just call us at 836-4000. We would be more than happy to give you advice about trimming, or simply do it for you.



# November 'To-Do' List



Reduce watering to 1 day per week

*“Continue mowing cool-season grasses until they stop growing.”*

Brrrrr...It's getting cold out there. With dropping temperatures comes one of the years' bigger 'to-do' lists. Not taking care of the yard properly this month can result in costly problems later, so make sure to correctly and completely service the yard in November.

- Continue mowing cool-season grasses until they stop growing.
- Keep the lawns as clean of debris as possible to avoid potential pest problems.
- Time to apply lawn winterizer (if you haven't done so already).
- Lower the watering to once a week. When setting the watering timer, make sure to only water at the hottest time of the day and make sure not to water on cold, stormy days.
- You can still plant container-grown trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- Now that it's colder, those deciduous trees and shrubs could use a nice pruning. Take some of those cuttings indoors to root if you'd like.
- As for the roses, prune back canes or tie up climbers so that they are protected from winter winds. You'll also want to winterize them after the first frost, but before the ground freezes.
- Freezing water can become a big issue this month so make sure to disconnect all hoses and store inside if possible.
- Water features should be drained, cleaned and covered for the winter.
- As for the irrigation system, you'll want to flush, drain and shut down all vacuum breakers.
- You can now harvest most of the garden (enjoy!).
- Make sure no container plants have been left outdoors. If any of your clay pots

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## Check Out Our November Plant Specials



This month we are giving 20% off some beautiful trees and shrubs this month. Start planning for next year with this special! Check out our website at [www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com](http://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.



# It's Time To Start Planning...

As the leaves stop falling and the yard goes quiet for a winter nap, it's time to start planning additions and/or changes you want to do. Now is a great time to look at the yard and see what you want out of it.

While planning consider the following:

- **Do you have enough shade in the yard?** Did the summer heat make the yard too hot to use this year? If so, consider planting some shade trees. A couple well placed trees can make a huge difference in the overall temperature of the yard.
- **Do you have enough color in the yard?** Adding a few flowering shrubs or a annual garden bed for colorful flowers like Pansy's or Petunia's can make the yard much more interesting as far as color scheme.
- **Does the yard have any depth?** By depth, I mean does the yard seem flat and plain, keeping everything on the same level. Depth can be achieved by adding raised beds, a water feature, etc.



These are just a few things to consider when evaluating your yard. In order to help you plan your yard, we have a landscaping questionnaire on our website at [www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com](http://www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com). This questionnaire can help you decide what you would like to see more of in your yard.

## November 'To-Do' List (cont. from page 2)

broke, break them up smaller and store the shards for creating drainage in next year's potted plants.

- Plant plenty of pansies for color.
- Finally, clean up...clean up...and clean up some more! Left over leaves and debris will become a pest problem if not taken care of quickly and correctly.

This list just scratched the surface of this months' 'to-do'. It can definitely become overwhelming, but that's what we're here for. We would love to help you so call Quality Lawn Care at (505)836-4000 and schedule your services now before we book up.

### Did you know...

Archaeologists have recovered remains of sunflower seeds dating back to the year 800 AD.

Roughly 25% of all prescription medicines in the US are derived from plants.

Onions contain a mild antibiotic that fights infections, soothes burns, tames bee stings and relieves the itch of athletes foot.

A notch in a tree will remain the same distance from the ground as the tree grows.



# November Specials



## \$20 OFF Fall Cleanup

~Totaling \$100 or more~

Must mention coupon for discount. Expires 12/31/2015.

Not valid with any other offers.

Call 836-4000

## \$10 OFF Lawn Winterizer App

~With Aeration Service~

Must mention coupon for discount. Expires 11/30/2015.

Not valid with any other offers.

Call 836-4000



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**“Give your yard some Q.L.C.”**

Inside this issue:

- November ‘To-Do’
- Trimming Myths
- Time to plan
- Discounts

Or Current Resident

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Visit us on the Web  
[www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com](http://www.QualityLawnCareABQ.com)

Or Scan  
this QR  
Code...



### A letter to our customers

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! We are so thankful for all of you, our customers and friends, that have kept up going through all of these years. In appreciation of you, we are offering you \$20 off your fall cleanup service. Look inside for your coupon. Then, call our office and set up an appointment to receive this special discount. We look forward to serving you this fall.

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

-Your Q.L.C. Staff

## “Give Your Yard Some QLC” A full service lawn and landscape company

*Landscaping*

*Xeriscaping*

*Irrigation*

*Mowing*

*Trimming /Pruning*

*Fertilization and weed control*

*Tree and Shrub spraying*

*Power raking/Aeration*

*Seasonal Cleanup*

*Yearly maintenance contracts*

*Seeding/Sodding*

*Pond cleanouts*

*Water features*

*Flagstone*

*Paver patios and walkways*

*Garden preparation/ Rototilling*

*Stump removal*

*Design, consulting & diagnostics*



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