

YARD-NIQUE, INC.

Established 1997



WINTER 2012

WARM WINTER TEMPS

With the warm winter temperatures we are having spring annual weeds germinate sooner rather than later. This early spring up could be a challenge this year to stay on top of. We are aware of this and are on top of the potential conditions. For the first time in several years we are applying a post and pre emergent fertilizer to control this early growth. Our goal is to provide you and your property with a healthy stand of turf regardless of conditions. Thank you for your patience this year with our annual winter weeds.



WINTER PROJECTS

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS WINTER

- Applying deer off to winter annuals
- Applying turf winterizer to all fescue properties
- Applying pre-emergent on all Bermuda properties for winter annuals
- Installed holiday decorations
- Fertilized all winter annuals with 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer
- Limbing up trees
- Cutting back grasses and deciduous plants that require cutting back

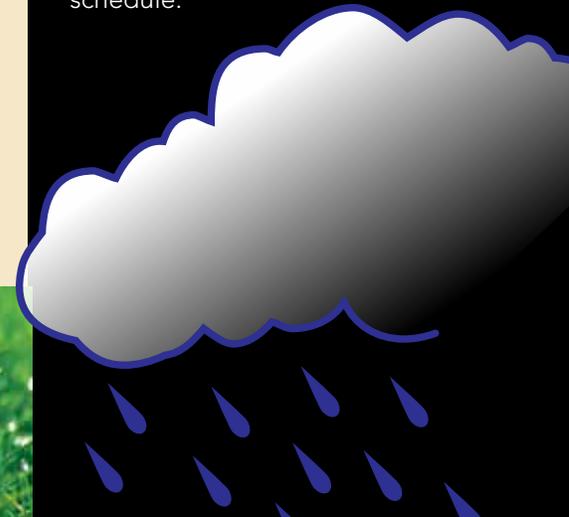
WHAT WE WILL BE DOING INTO THE SPRING

- Fertilize Turf (Fescue/Bermuda) with pre-emergent
- Fertilize plants with slow release nursery grade fertilizer
- Limbing up of trees
- Cutting back of grasses and plants that require cutting back.



COMING SOON:

Spring startup service for irrigation systems. Call 919-550-3952 to schedule.



CHECK LOCAL ORDINANCES BEFORE PRUNING TREES

BY HOPE DERBY CARMICHAEL

Managers and Association Boards of Directors need to be aware of more than just whether the grass is mowed when monitoring the Association's landscape contractors. Your Association may be subject to a local ordinance which restricts the pruning of certain trees and shrubs. Failure to adhere to these ordinances may result in hefty fines for the Association and possibly the management company.

Just ask the 150 St. Mary's Townhome Association in Raleigh. Board members thought they were being responsive to owners' requests to address heavy, low-hanging branches on the Association's 30+ crape myrtle trees that overhang sidewalks skirting the community. The Association's landscape committee directed the landscape contractor to prune the crape myrtles back so that the branches would not impede pedestrians using the sidewalk. The landscape contractor severely pruned the crape myrtles, cutting all branches off at the crown of the trees. This is a common, although incorrect pruning practice for crape myrtles, arborists call it "crape murder." The worst news for 150 St. Mary's, though, was that not only did its landscaper not know the correct pruning technique, the company was also unaware of Raleigh City Code §10-2082.3, which addresses maintenance of landscaping and prohibited pruning of trees. The result: both the Association and its management company were charged by the City with a \$13,500 fine and a requirement to remove and replace each of the 30+ trees pruned in violation of the ordinance — a total financial impact of over \$40,000 all as a result of one day's landscape work.'



Looking specifically at this particular ordinance, the City of Raleigh requires that plants and trees required to be planted by the City be allowed to reach their mature size. Many planning departments now impose minimum landscape requirements on developers of new residential communities — all such communities would fall within this type of ordinance. Under the Raleigh ordinance, not only must trees be allowed to grow naturally and reach their mature size, but the plants and trees must also be maintained at their mature size. Unless the property owner (i.e., the Association) obtains a permit or is having the plants/trees trimmed in compliance with the power line clearance policies, plants and trees required under the code "shall not be excessively trimmed or otherwise damaged so that their natural form is impaired." What this simply means is that the tree should merely be trimmed in order to remain full at its mature size or neatly trimmed in order to reach full mature size. What this ordinance is attempting to avoid is the tree crown being excessively trimmed back, with the tree displaying mostly a thick trunk and barely any limbs or greenery on the crown of the tree.

Again, looking specifically at the Raleigh ordinance, any excessive trimming of the required plants or trees will result in a fine of \$2,500.00 automatically for the first tree. Any additional excessively pruned trees after the first tree will result in a fee of \$100 per

caliper inch of excessive pruning. If enough of the tree is removed via pruning (more than 50% of the crown or root system), within a five year period, then the owner must replace the tree with a tree/trees of equal diameter. The trees must also be replaced with trees of equal diameter if more than 1/3 of the circumference of the tree is exposed by pruning cuts.

Should the owner of the real property on which the trees is planted have to replace the tree pursuant to the ordinance, the replacement tree has minimum measurements that it must meet (3 inches in diameter). Any replacement trees must also be planted in an area with at least 350 square feet of room with the dimension of the area wherein the tree must be planted stretching at least 7 feet. If the trees must be replaced under the code and there is insufficient land wherein to plant new trees, and the trees cannot be planted on adjoining street right of ways, then in lieu of the replacement, the owner must pay a fee equal to \$100 per caliper inch of replacement trees to the City.

If the trees are excessively pruned, yet allowed to remain, then the City's Urban Forester may require the trees' crowns to be restored or reduced. Any such corrective pruning must be done under the supervision of a certified arborist.

It is important to note that these pruning requirements apply both to private and public land alike situated within the City of Raleigh's zoning jurisdiction. Any land identified on a set of maps entitled "Zoning Maps of the City of Raleigh" dated September 1, 1996, or subsequent dates and if the land is identified to be within the City of Raleigh or land located outside the City of Raleigh under its extra-territorial jurisdiction, is subject to these pruning requirements. Please check applicable ordinances in your jurisdiction to insure compliance with similar requirements.

With over a decade of service to the RTP area and a highly skilled staff of over 150 employees, Yard-Nique is able to respond to any landscape need. Our professional staff is prepared to assist you with design services, new installations, renovations and ongoing maintenance. Whether your job is a SMALL residential renovation project or a MAJOR commercial site, we deliver high quality and honest service at a fair and competitive price.

LANDSCAPE
DESIGN, BUILD,
AND MAINTAIN



LANDSCAPE
INSTALLATION
AND TURF
MAINTENANCE



IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS AND
OUTDOOR
LIGHTING



HARDSCAPING
AND OUTDOOR
LIVING SPACES



To receive our quarterly newsletter, please go to www.yardnique.com and request to be added to our email list.