



NEWSLETTER

DRESS YOUR ENTRYWAY FOR WINTER— NO PLANTING REQUIRED

Now that it's cold outside, containers that were resplendent with summer flowers appear desolate and vacant. Winter can be equally attractive when you adapt these tips to your containers for a rich look that's easy to replicate. Containers filled with boughs of evergreens and branches can create lush welcoming winter containers.



After the annuals have died down in your hanging baskets and containers, clear them away and use the moist soil left in the pots to stick cuttings

into for winter attractive containers. The most attractive arrangements begin with a focal point, the one element that draws attention. A taller cutting

placed in the center will serve as the anchor. Around this, focus on smaller textured foliage for substance and contrast. Evergreen hollies with attractive berries look

very nice as accent pieces. Pictured here is a hanging basket filled with Leyland Cypress, Nandina, & Pyracantha cuttings. Make sure your containers can withstand freezing. Clay or ceramic pots will be susceptible to cracking. Your best bet would be to use containers made of resin or plastic. The soil left in the containers will keep your cuttings held upright when you insert them into the soil and will also keep the cuttings moist throughout the winter months. Water periodically to keep the soil continually moist.

MONTHLY GARDENING CHORES

Ideally you will have planted all your spring bulbs by now. All is not lost, however, if you find a bag of bulbs that you simply didn't get around to planting yet. You really should get on it now as soon as possible. Remember most spring bulbs must go through a chilling process of at least twelve (12) weeks for best results. Check the bulbs. If they are excessively dry and brittle or mushy and/or soft, they are probably no longer viable. The bulbs should be firm to the touch.

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Special points of interest:

- Dress Your Entry for Winter
- Spotlight on Pyracantha
- Check out our blog site at <http://mandmlandscapeandlawn.blogspot.com>
- Why Landscape?

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

EVERGREEN NEEDLE DROP

Broadleaved and needled evergreen plants shed their leaves. We've all seen the carpet of pine needles underneath a pine tree. This occurs as a result of both natural and environmental stresses. Each species of evergreen has their period of natural leaf drop or shed and this varies from one variety to the other.

Broadleaved evergreens (think Holly, Rhododendron, Euonymus or Southern Magnolia) usually shed their leaves in the summer or early fall. Juniper and Douglas fir needles will last for 10 or more years. Arborvitae and white pine will drop needles in the fall of their second year. Yew needles commonly will turn yellow and drop in their third year in the late spring or early summer. A Spruce tree can hold onto their needles for approximately 5-7 years. Eastern White Pine is one evergreen tree that is very noticeable as it loses its leaves in the fall. As stated above, the white pine sheds its needles in the fall of their second year, which leaves less growth at the tip of the

branches to hide the needles that are shed making the fall needle shed seen more readily. The tree will appear particularly unhealthy when these yellow needles outnumber the green needles of the current season's growth.

New needles will not regrow from the areas where they have dropped. However, new growth developing from terminal and lateral buds will mask the needle drop.

Excessive needle/leaf drop at an inappropriate time may signal a cry for help.

Natural needle drop occurs only on the inner needles. If your evergreen's entire branches or needles/leaves at the tips of the branches are drying up and falling off, something else is happening.

Mites are often the culprit of non-seasonal needle drop. Generally, you will notice off-color needles becoming yellowish or brown. Sometimes, you will note the browning or yellowing starting in one particular area and gradually spreading throughout the plant. A light webbing is associated with heavy infes-

tations. A good way to test for mites is to hold a sheet of white paper under a branch and shake or tap the branch. The mites will drop onto the paper where you can see them moving about. Aphids may also attack white pine needles. Bagworms are another common pest particularly on junipers and arborvitae.

Stress factors may intensify fall needle drop. Stress factors include drought, root damage, herbicide injury, disease, and, as addressed above, insect damage. The most common environmental factor being excessive soil moisture and drought. An excess of soluble salts in the environment such as occurs with the use of de-icing salts washing around the plant can also cause a large amount of desiccation in some needled evergreens.

Some summer and fall leaf/needle drop is a natural condition varying in appearance depending upon weather conditions, plant health, and tree/plant species. Excessive needle/leaf drop at an inappropriate time may signal a cry for help. When in doubt, contact your nursery professionals or your County Extension Service for advice.

GARDEN HUMOR

What did Santa Claus say when walking in the garden? Hoe! Hoe! Hoe!

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit;

Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Gardening requires a lot of water — most of it in the form of perspiration.

Old gardeners never die they just vegetate.

If you're a gardener you might call yourself a 'plant manager'.

New gardeners learn by trowel and error.

Why do potatoes make good detectives?

Because they keep their eyes peeled.

TOP REASONS WHY GARDENING IS BETTER THAN SEX:

1. Your gardening partner will never say, "Not again? We just gardened last week!"
2. You don't have to hide your gardening tools.

3. No one objects if you watch the gardening channel on television.

4. Every time you garden, you hope to produce fruit.

5. You don't have to hide your Gardening magazines.

6. You'll always be able to garden, no matter how old you are.

7. When you become famous, you don't have to worry about pictures and videotapes of you gardening being shown on the Internet.

8. When dealing with a gardening pro, you never have to wonder if they're really an undercover cop.

9. You don't have to be newlywed to plan a vacation primarily to enjoy your favorite activity.

10. You'll never hear anyone say: "Is gardening all you ever think about?"

SPOTLIGHT ON PLANTS

Pyracantha. Py-ra-kan'tha. Firethorn.

Pyracantha is an evergreen thorny

shrub with simple leaves, round clusters of white flowers, and red or orange berries.



The berries are outstanding features in the landscape from fall through winter and into spring. The berries must not be very tasty to the birds as they won't eat them until late in the winter when other food sources have been depleted. That just makes for a longer show of berries in the winter landscape.

Most cultivars prefer full to part sun

and are not fussy about soil ph. Ordinary soil and watering, once established, are adequate for its needs.

Some varieties such as *Pyracantha coccinea* are more susceptible to fire blight, which makes the shoots die back from the tips; scab, which makes hard, dark spots on the berries and leaves; and various insects.

Tall, short, or prostrate forms are available. Try 'Mohave', a orange-red hybrid cultivar, for a tall, disease-resistant plant, hardy to zones 6-7.

'Red Elf' forms a dwarf, 2-3 ft. tall, compact mound with bright red fruits. Hardy to zone 7, but susceptible to fire blight.

'Navaho' makes a broad mound, 6ft. Tall, with orange-red fruits. This variety has proven to be disease-resistant, hardy to zone 6-7.

Pyracantha can be espaliered against a fence to give a blast of color to any winter landscape. The berries don't strut their stuff until fall and winter.



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*Thank you for the opportunity to serve
you!*

**M & M LANDSCAPE
AND LAWN, INC.**



CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE!!!!
mandmlandscapeandlawn.com

Owners, Jeff and Linda McAnally, are both Arkansas Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals.

Jeff has worked in the horticultural business since 1986. Operating first a residential and commercial lawn care business. M & M Landscape and Lawn, Inc. was incorporated in 1994 and we opened our garden center/greenhouse. Jeff, as President, monitors the day to day operations of the landscaping division. His training includes plant propagation workshops, Arkansas Certified Nurseryman Program #195, continuous study of horticultural books, literature and trade articles, yearly seminars at Arkansas Green Industry Association events.

Linda has been involved in greenhouse management and nursery retail since 1995. Linda has completed the ACNLP certification program #283, and oversees the day to day running of the retail nursery as well as works closely with the plant propagation and growing-on of cuttings and liners to a salable product.

WHY LANDSCAPE?



GREENHOUSE HAPPENINGS

The retail Greenhouses are closed for January and most of February. We will re-open in the spring.

We are still landscaping full time, and throughout the winter, weather permitting will be installing lots of structure, retaining walls, drainage, patios, and walkways. Please call us any time so we can schedule your landscape needs. If you need plants during this time, please don't hesitate to contact us and we can arrange to meet you.

REFERENCES:

Needle Drop in Evergreens, Michigan State University Extension, Home Horticulture—03900111, 01/01/96.

Horticulture Paradise News Release, <http://hortparadise.unl.edu>, Evergreen Needle Drop, 10/29/06.

Taylor's Master Guide to Gardening, Pyracantha, Houghton Mifflin Co., Page 472.

The Gardener's Network, <http://www.gardenersnet.com>, Gardening's Better Than Sex.

David's Hobson's Garden Humor, <http://home.golden.net>, Really bad Jokes and Quotes from the World of gardening.

1. To make your home and neighborhood more beautiful, functional and enjoyable. Plants mark the changing seasons, and add grace and seasonal color. Landscaping makes a house feel like a home.
2. Conserve energy in the summer and save you money. Properly planted trees can cut your air-conditioning costs by 15-35%.
3. Increase your property values. Landscaping increases the perceived value of your property by as much as 15%.
4. Conserve energy in the winter. Proper landscaping can slow cold winter winds, and can cut your heating costs 10-20%.
5. Landscaping is fun. Planting and caring for plants can be a great family activity. Proper landscaping can attract beautiful butterflies and songbirds by providing nesting sites, food and cover for countless species.
6. Nightscaping lighting systems allow you to enjoy your landscape after dark, creating more time for hectic lifestyles.
7. Landscaping helps hold the soil in place and reduces erosion and runoff.
8. Create more usable space with proper terracing & retaining walls.