



Special points of interest:

- Prune shade trees, fruit trees, and ornamentals. Do NOT prune "bleeders" like Maple or Birch until summer
- Watch for rabbit, deer, and salt damage
- Check tree wraps and stakes for constriction
- Look at overall structure of your landscapes and gardens. Think about changes you'd like to make this spring
- Feel free to contact us with any other problems or concerns you may have regarding your lawn and landscapes

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Welcome to a New Growing Season

We're excited about working with you to keep your property looking great this year!

There are a lot of ways we can help, and we hope you're taking full advantage of the services we have to offer. We are a full service lawn care company – providing landscaping and irrigation services, mowing and trimming, Sharp-N-Lube Mobile Mower Service, lawn applications, tree and shrub care, holiday lighting, and snow removal. Our technicians are trained, certified full-time, year-round employees. We pride ourselves in completing projects in a timely and efficient manner at a competitive price. We encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or feedback.

We're here for you whenever you need us!

Our goal of this newsletter is to explain how and why things are happening as well as to remind you of other important seasonal needs for you lawn and landscapes. We'll also be passing along ideas and suggestions to help your property reach its full potential.

We're glad you've chosen to partner with A+ for all your lawn and landscape needs. Great customers are hard to come by and we value your business!



Winter Damage: Protecting Your Trees & Shrubs



Iowa's harsh winter climate can often be responsible for severe damage to landscape plants. Winter sun, wind, and cold temps can bleach evergreen foliage, damage bark, and injure or kill branches.

Winter food shortages often force rodents to feed on bark, twigs, foliage, etc. However, there are several ways to diminish and prevent these problems from occurring. You can wrap tree trunks with commercial tree wrap or burlap straps. We also recommend painting the trunks white with special paint to prevent splitting. This method reflects sunlight and can reduce temperature fluctuation that can lead to splitting. All wraps should be removed after one growing season to prevent insect or moisture damage.

Frost Heaving (which is caused by the freezing and thawing of soil) can also be a problem. A 4-6" thick layer of mulch will prevent heaving by helping to maintain a more constant soil temperature.

Snow and Ice buildup from storms can cause damage by bending and breaking branches. Proper pruning can help with this problem.

Although plant cold hardiness and winter injury are common with Iowa winters, appropriate plant selection along with cultural practices and preventative maintenance will significantly reduce or prevent severe injury or loss of landscape plants.

Locally owned and operated, serving Des Moines and the surrounding areas for over 25 years!