



Phone: (616) 784-5525  
info@clarkslandscape.com

## Important Winterizing Instructions

The following guidelines should be completed to ensure the success and beauty of your newly installed lawn or landscape and also to preserve your warranty.

1. All of the trees in your landscape will need to be fertilized. We at Clark's have found late November to be an ideal time for doing this.
2. Broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, azaleas, boxwood, and hollies must be sprayed with **wilt-proof**. This product is designed to reduce winter burn and dehydration from winter winds. Follow label instructions before applying.
3. Spray all shrubs and trees that rabbits and deer tend to eat with a deer repellent. This is usually most effective when applied in late November or early December. Burning bush, cotoneaster, pyracantha, yews, spirea, arborvitae, and flowering crabs are all favorites.
4. New trees with a trunk size of 2 ½ in. diameter or larger should be wrapped from the ground to branches with a tree wrap. This will help prevent any splitting that can occur from the sun on warm winter days while the ground is still frozen.
5. Another item of maintenance that we would like to stress is **watering**. You should continue watering your plants into the months of October, November, and sometimes December depending on the weather conditions. Ideally, plants should go into the winter freezing period with plenty of water around their roots. The late summer drought has created a critical need for fall watering. One or two good, long soakings will help your trees to better survive the winter.
6. **Mulching** is an excellent practice for protecting plants in your landscape and should be done in late November after the plants have been subjected to a few mild frosts.
7. Make sure that your lawn is well **fertilized** with a fall fertilizer. Also reduce your mowing height to 1 ½ - 2".
8. Field mice and voles are becoming an increasing problem in our landscape and lawns. You can prevent most damage by using rodent bait. Follow label directions.
9. All tree stakes, hoses, and wires should be removed after one year to prevent strangling of the tree trunk.
10. Cut perennials back to their crown or base in late fall. Leave any perennials that have winter interest such as grasses and sedums.
11. During the winter, remember to avoid using salt or ice melter on decorative concrete paving. These materials can cause pitting or discoloration in the concrete. Also, be sure to use plastic or rubber bladed shovels to prevent scraping on the surface.

Your local garden or home center will be able to help you with any products needed. Please feel free to call Clark's with any of your landscape care questions.