

SKB Field Notes



News on the Grow

Commercial Landscaping At Its Best



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2011

FEATURED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Winterize your lawn

Winter pruning

Snowmageddon '11-SKB to the rescue!

SKB Customers converting to smart controllers
and saving money

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SKB to the Rescue! - Snowmageddon '11



Snow and ice blanketed the metro area in amounts not seen in decades. With this combination of snow and ice it made conditions challenging. Throughout the snowstorm, SKB Industries de-iced the parking lots and walkways of our properties. We had crews out there with the skid steer loader to break up thick ice patches and clear lots using shovels and environmentally friendly de-icer.

Before

After



WINTER PRUNING



As the temperatures and leaves begin to fall, any thoughts of summer are quickly forgotten with the beauty of the season surrounding us. However, the fall is the best time to identify plants that require winter pruning. Winter pruning is a practice that is used to remediate “out of control” shrubs and plants that have grown beyond their boundaries or are stressing from environmental factors. A few typical candidates for winter pruning are: Ligustrum, Roses, Hawthorn, and many types of hollies. The benefits of winter pruning include reducing the size of “out of control” shrubs and improving the health of the plant in many ways. When winter pruning is performed, the plant is reduced to its few main leader branches, with all dead wood being removed. This gives the plant a chance to start fresh and return to its natural growth habit. In return for its leaves and branches, the plant receives improved airflow and sunlight, which reduces the possibility of health related issues. With SKB properly pruning and caring for your plants after winter pruning, the health and vigor of your landscape will be greatly improved for years to come.

Has Your Lawn Been Winterized?

Cold Weather Preparations Should Start Now

A little extra care this fall will help to pave the way for healthier, thicker lawn growth when spring returns. Old Man winter has a way of sneaking up on us, so the sooner the following steps are taken, the better.

Letting Your Lawn Breathe

Fallen leaves and other organic debris should be removed to prevent smothering your grass over the winter. If you have a compost pile, these items will make a great addition.

To “clear the airways” even further, your lawn should also be aerated (if it hasn’t been already).

Taking it Down a Notch

As the growing season winds down, mowing height should go down too. It’s best to reduce the mowing height gradually over several cuttings to avoid shocking the grass. Mowing should continue until grass has stopped growing for the year, and the final cut of the season should be about 2" above the thatch layer. This “short cut” will help the lawn to retain its color and resist disease over the winter months. It’s also beneficial to mulch clippings instead of bagging them, since they’ll add valuable organic matter to the soil.

Feeding the Roots

Your lawn’s root system is undergoing a growth spurt right now as it works to convert nutrients into food reserves for the this fall will promote deeper, stronger roots to fortify your turf for the colder months ahead. Plus, fall fertilization will encourage earlier and thicker green-up in the spring.

For a hardier, healthier, better-looking lawn through the winter and into the spring, winterization is just the thing! Each of the practices mentioned here can make a world of difference for your turf.



***GIVE YOUR
PROPERTY ITS
OWN WEATHER
STATION***



How the ESP-SMT Smart Control System works

Unlike a traditional time-based irrigation controller that employs fixed station run times, start times, and irrigation days manually set by the user, the ESP-SMT Smart Control System irrigation schedule automatically changes daily based on specific weather conditions at the site.

Weather information is collected in real-time by an on-site SMT Weather Sensor and communicated to the ESP-SMT Controller. This collected weather information is combined with 1) historic weather information for the site location and 2) specific site and individual zone parameters that are entered into the controller by the user to automatically create an optimized irrigation schedule that will promote healthy deep rooted plants while conserving water. Based on the soil type and slope conditions, the overall irrigation requirement is split into multiple “cycle and soak” irrigation events, thereby eliminating the problems from water run-off and overwatering.

Majestic Properties of Atlanta have converted all their Atlanta Properties to the smart controller system.

Another Growing Season Comes to a Close

It's hard to believe that summer and fall are already behind us, and winter will soon be a distant memory. Where has all the time gone?

Well, when you are busy doing something you love, time does have a way of flying by. It seems like we lose track of time every year because we really do love working with you to help your green spaces reach their true potential.

We are grateful for the confidence you have in our training and expertise. Whether we are troubleshooting a problem with a particular plant or simply taking steps to encourage healthier, more beautiful growth. You can rest assured that we are giving it our all. This is a great time to think ahead to next season. Are there any services you would like to add next year? Do you have any special projects in mind for your property?

If so, please let us know. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have, and to show you how we can be of help.

We value your feedback, so please tell us how we're doing. Clear communication with our customers enables us to improve upon the quality of our services year after year. Thank you for your continued business, and have a great winter season.

We will see you again in the spring!



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