

Top Ten List- November

1. **Rabbits** and **deer** can destroy lawns, trees, and shrubs during any month of the year. Since your plants and lawn are not growing through the winter, the damage is even worse because of lack of healing. We have many **repellents** which are effective in making your yard less appetizing. Switch out the repellent you are using every month or so, because in time these critters become used to a repellent and it becomes less effective. **Spray your smaller trees and large shrubs** to prevent bucks from rubbing the velvet off their antlers.
2. **Borers** come into the yard at this time of year in firewood. These little creatures will live for a year in dead wood and then are able to attack freshly planted pines, spruce, cherry, and other stone fruits in the spring. **Removing the bark** on the firewood will kill these pests.
3. **Water** all trees and shrubs one time this month. New plantings (less than 2 years old) are especially susceptible to winter damage caused by lack of water. Also, apply **Wilt Stop** to all broadleaf evergreens. This product is a clear, flexible polymer coating that holds moisture in the plants and reduces stress caused by temperature extremes and dry environment. It can be **applied once a month** in November, December, January, and February.
4. **Bring in** or **cover** your clay and concrete pots, statuary, and fountains. Use a **sealer** to help prolong your investment. Place burlap or other absorbent fabric in the basins, that can NOT be turned over, to prevent ice from forming in the cracks. Keep a concrete base (i.e. pavers) or a well-draining base under all concrete items. While you are at it, **clean** all **your tools** with rubbing alcohol and **rub off rust** with steel wool, **oil wood handles**, and **store your tools** in a dry place where they will be protected from the winter elements.
5. **Do not** prune grapes, sugar maples, or birch this month because of bleeding sap. Only time will stop the flow, so sealing these cuts will not be effective. Prune these plants in April. Now is the time to **prune 2-year-old wood on raspberries** for a bumper crop of berries next year.
6. To control voles and mice apply **Kaput Combo Bait Pellet Packs**. Keep extra packs on hand to replace the empties.
7. Heavy snows can pull down **arborvitae** and **upright junipers**, so a light pruning and/or tying with thick green tie tape (around the upper portion) will help prevent winter damage.

8. Treat your household plants again with **Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control**. The insects always seem to be worse in the winter.

9. **Spray** fruit trees with **Dormant Oil** to kill overwintering insects, eggs, and spores.

10. **Start a pot of fragrant paperwhites or an amaryllis** so that they will be in their glory during the December holiday season. These also make a great hostess gift. **Pre-order** your **Christmas tree** now for delivery any time after Thanksgiving. And don't forget to check out our **Christmas Wonderland!**