

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 such as **Animal Stopper**, **Liquid Fence**, **Plantskydd**, and **Repellex**. 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 or wrap 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 helps 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, **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** down on raspberries (the tallest stalks) 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 place 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. Set off some **bug bombs** in your shed and garage areas to help control those pesty spiders.
9. Spray fruit trees and roses with **dormant oil** to kill overwintering insect, eggs, and spores. **Liqui-cop** will kill overwintering disease.
10. **Start getting ready for Christmas** by preordering your Christmas tree, getting enough paperwhites so you have some for yourself and some as gifts, pick up a jumbo-sized amaryllis for pure delight, and stroll our Christmas Wonderland. New items will be arriving right up until Christmas so be sure to stop by in December as well.