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Irrigation Tip

If you haven't done so already, now is the time to schedule an appointment to have your irrigation system winterized. Properly servicing your system is an important part of protecting your landscaping investment. Even in temperate climates, the freezing of pipes and valves can result in costly repairs and lengthy downtime. To ensure that your irrigation system is winterized by the recommended system shutdown deadline (late November), we recommend that you call Lifestyle and make an appointment as soon as possible.

Lifestyle Landscapes Still Offering Electronic Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter electronically, please feel free to call Lifestyle or simply email us at consult@lifestyle-landscapes.com with your request.

Local Artists: Can They Add to the Beauty of Your Landscape?

Just as you can change the ambiance of your garden by adding a lighting system, you can completely alter the atmosphere of your space using just one, thoughtfully placed, and unique piece of outdoor art. One can choose from natural or manufactured stone,



"Three Spheres" Art by Little and Lewis

blown glass, or a variety of metals, including chrome and copper, to complete and enhance one's landscape. Maybe a wall hanging of some sort to grace the side of your home or garden shed would be a better option for you. No matter what style of garden you have, you won't have any trouble finding a great piece to add to your outdoor space. And Puget Sound is a wonderful place to begin your search.

Start anywhere and you'll be sure to stumble across something valuable for your property. With this area boasting such a large population of successful artists, ranging from painters, to sculptors, to those who work so patiently with glass, take your pick! Below are two popular, local artists that may have just what you're looking for:

Little and Lewis: Located on Bainbridge Island are artists George Little and David Lewis. Check out their extensive website, <http://www.littleandlewis.com>, to view a wide range of masterpieces. Their work includes one-of-a-kind mirrors, wall panels, columns, paintings, and random sculpture.



"Lotus Mirror" Art by Little and Lewis

Tom Torrens Sculpture Design: Located in Gig Harbor is artist Tom Torrens. Visit <http://www.tomtorrens.com> to view his extensive collection of custom birdbaths and bird feeders, bells fountains, gongs and much more!

Art by Tom Torrens



"Olympic Open Birdfeeder"



"Wood Beam Bell"

The designers at Lifestyle Landscapes often suggest having a focal point within the landscape. If you are, in fact, interested in adding a beautiful centerpiece to your existing outdoor area, please give us a call. We can provide suggestions as to placement within your yard as well as to what type of art may best suit your space.



Garden Calendar

November

Winterize irrigation systems. Cold temperatures can cause costly damage to your system if it is not properly serviced.

Mow and fertilize the lawn one more time before spring; try to pick a dry day to do so.

Empty any gasoline remaining in mower and tiller engines and fuel lines. Store leftover organic chemicals where they cannot freeze. Turn off outside water and drain all hoses. Also a good time to re-sharpen your garden tools.

Store packets of leftover seeds in a dry place such as a sealed jar with a packet of silica gel, dried rice or powdered milk in the bottom. Keep in a cool, dark cupboard.

December

Prune stone fruit trees such as cherries, plums, prunes, and peaches.

Make holiday decorations using sprigs cut from the garden, such as needle and broad-leaved evergreens, berries, vines, and ground covers. Spray arrangements with antidesiccant to retard moisture loss. Twist grapevines into wreaths. Add Pinecones and interesting seedpods, dried herbs and flowers as well as fragrant spices like cinnamon or nutmeg.

Take cuttings from evergreens, azaleas and rhododendrons. Keep them indoors with bright light and temperatures near 70 degrees fahrenheit.

Transplant deciduous plants and trees; December is also a great time to mulch trees.

Getting the Most From Your Winter Vegetables

As the seasons come and go, we are provided with an always changing variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Whether it be from your garden, the grocery store, or your local produce market, seasonal produce is something to take advantage of. To best utilize autumn and winter veggies, please try one of the recipes below and/or visit www.recipezaar.com for more ideas!

Winter Vegetable Soup W/Toast Toppers:

INGREDIENTS

3 tbsp olive oil
 1 cup coarsely chopped onion
 1 cup peeled, cored and coarsely chopped Granny Smith apple
 1 cup peeled and coarsely chopped turnip
 1 cup peeled and chopped butternut squash (seeds discarded)
 1 cup coarsely chopped carrot
 1 cup peeled, chopped sweet potato
 5 cups vegetable (or chicken) stock
 1/4 cup maple syrup
 Cayenne pepper
 1 small whole-grain baguette
 3 oz goat cheese
 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives



DIRECTIONS

For soup, heat oil in a large saucepan on medium heat. Add onion and sauté until translucent. Add apple, turnip, squash, carrot, and sweet potato; season with salt, sauté 5 minutes. Add stock, bring to a boil and simmer, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add syrup, then cayenne pepper to taste. Cool slightly. Puree with a handheld mixer, food processor or blender. For toast toppers, cut 6 slices bread and toast them. Spread 1/2 oz goat cheese on top of each; sprinkle with chives. Pour soup into 6 large bowls; float toast on top.

Zucchini Twice-Baked Potatoes:

INGREDIENTS

3 large baking potatoes (about 3/4 pound *each*)
 3 cups shredded zucchini (about 2 medium)
 1 medium onion, chopped
 2 tablespoons butter, *divided*
 1/2 cup sour cream
 3/4 to 1 teaspoon salt
 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese



DIRECTIONS

Scrub and pierce potatoes. Bake at 400° for 50-75 minutes or until tender. Cool until easy to handle. Reduce heat to 350°. In a large skillet, saute zucchini and onion in 1 tablespoon butter until tender. Drain and set aside. Scoop out the potato pulp, leaving a thin shell; place pulp in a bowl and mash. Add the sour cream, salt, pepper and remaining butter; mash. Stir in zucchini mixture. Spoon into potato shells. Sprinkle with cheese. Place on a baking sheet. Bake at 20-25 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted.

Another Satisfied Client

Last March, Loic and Susan Julien contacted Lifestyle Landscapes with a request: Make our backyard something special. We've managed to do just that and they couldn't be happier!

After the initial consultation meeting, the designer, Arlene Wing, created a wonderful design that made the most of the small backyard. She included a new concrete driveway, fence with arbor, new patios with retaining wall and stairs, a shed, planting beds and a lighting system that really brings it all together. "It seems everywhere I turn, there is another "wow" factor that is so pleasing to see."



Susan and Loic enjoying their new outdoor space.

Loic and Susan's back yard before:



Upon completion, the Juliens could not express how excited they were with the results and with the overall experience of working with Lifestyle. "From the first meeting, we felt like all our ideas were taken into consideration and incorporated into the plan. We were really impressed with that...Thank you for making our dreams come true!"

Loic and Susan's back yard after:



El Nino & La Nina: What are they? How will they affect us this year?

El Nino: El Niño is an oscillation of the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific that affects weather worldwide. El Nino is characterized by unusually high ocean surface temperatures caused by less powerful trade winds. Among the consequences are cooler winters and more rain in the Southern United States, and warmer winters in the Northern United States.



La Nina: The opposite of El Nino, La Nina is characterized by unusually low ocean surface temperatures. It generally creates warmer weather in the Southwest United States and colder weather in the Northwest United States.

It is predicted that this autumn and winter, La Nina will continue. This means that here in the Northwest we can expect greater amounts of precipitation at least through December, and most likely into early 2008.

So, according to current conditions, expect more rain, and maybe a little snow sometime soon!



Your Guide To Puget Sound Happenings...

Light up Your Holidays: Activities for You and Your Family...

Zoolights

"The zoo will be transformed into a winter wonderland, aglow with more than half a million lights..."

Location: Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium

Event Dates: Nov. 23-Jan. 1, CLOSED Nov. 26-28, Dec. 3-5, and 24, OPEN CHRISTMAS!, 5:00-9:00pm.

Admission: Kids, 2yrs and under: FREE; Advance tickets: \$5; Night of tickets, Mon.-Thurs: \$5; Night of tickets Fri.-Sun: \$7;

<http://www.pdza.org/page.php?id=366>

The Lights Of Christmas

"Dazzling light displays, the smell of fresh hot donuts, Victorian Carolers, and so much more..."

Location: Warm Beach Christian Camps & Conference Center

Event Dates: Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Dec 6-9, 13-16, 20-23 & 27-30, 5:00-10:00pm.

Admission: Kids, 3yrs and under: FREE; Kids, 4-12yrs: \$7; Adults: \$12; Active Military & Seniors, 60+: \$8; Season Pass: (Unlimited Admission) Children, 4-12yrs: \$18; Adults: \$28

<http://www.warmbeach.com>

Garden d'Lights

"A garden of flowers created entirely out of lights."

Location: Bellevue Botanical Gardens

Event Dates: Nov. 24-Dec. 31, 5:00-9:30pm.

Admission: Free

<http://www.bellevuebotanical.org/visitor/fmvisitor.htm>

