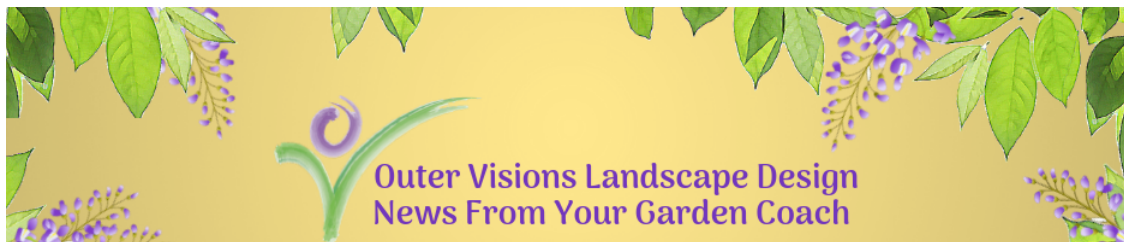


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This month is a great time to prune and clean up many plants in your garden. My tool of choice is a good pair of shears, such as the Felco pruners. Choosing a quality pair that fit your hand is important. As is keeping the blades sharpened and clean. Sharpeners are available at good nurseries, online, garden shows. My farmers market even sharpens pruners while you shop! Making a sharp cut is healthier for your plants and easier on your body!



Prevent disease spread by keeping your pruners clean. If you are pruning a plant with disease it's important to use a rag soaked with rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide before going to work on another plant. Another tip to keep the blades clean after a hard day of pruning, is using a little steel wool with some vegetable oil and buff it clean. This will lubricate the blades and prevent rust.

And lastly, remember to make each cut just above a leaf node or outward facing branch. Never leave an exposed stub as it can encourage insects and is unsightly.

Happy Pruning!

TRANSFORMATION



Here's a transformation a year after install. The homeowner told me that golfers on the course stop her and tell them it's the best yard they see along the course! I love hearing positive client feedback. :-)

Click on the images to see them larger

CURRENT PROJECTS

I'm working on moving several ton of boulders around this update to a front yard. It's quite the process! Plants are going in soon along with natural stone pillars, and a 3 basalt column water feature. I can't wait to share the finished result in a future transformation.



January Tips and To Do's

- Feed the lawn monthly even during cold winter months to maintain its green color and minimize rust disease. Choose a fall and winter fertilizer especially formulated for the season and our area.
- Feed your Camellias/Rhododendrons, Azaleas and even Roses and Lilac with a ratio fertilizer of 0-10-10. This helps feed the plant for better bloom production.

- Spray for Peach Leaf Curl and a dormant spray on roses and fruit trees.
- Spray 'Cloud Cover' on your tender plants, such as ferns and citrus when a bad frost is expected at night.
- Annuals for early spring color can be planted now. Primroses, Pansies, Violas, Iceland Poppies, Snapdragons and Stock can give some much-needed early spring color.
- If you haven't pruned your fruit trees and roses, now is the month. Roses need to have a dormant (sleep) period to rejuvenate for the next season, so it is helpful to actually pick all the leaves off the plant and help them have their rest period.
- Don't prune your spring blooming shrubs/trees, such as Lilac or Quince; you'll be cutting off this year's buds. Wait till after they bloom, and then cut back.
- If you are interested in Strawberries, Rhubarb and any of the Berries, now is the time to get these at the nursery.
- January and February are prime Camellia time! Pick your favorite color, either single or double blooming, and enjoy these beauties in your garden when not much else is blooming this time of year.

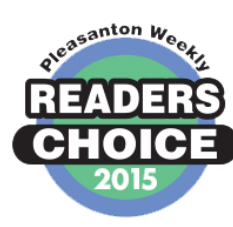
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