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LANDSCAPE COMPANY

"Icy Enough For You?"



I'm one of those people that don't really mind winter

(the way I look at it, it's penance for all the guilty pleasure I get from living in Maine during the summer!), but this year it's official; I have ICE FATIGUE!

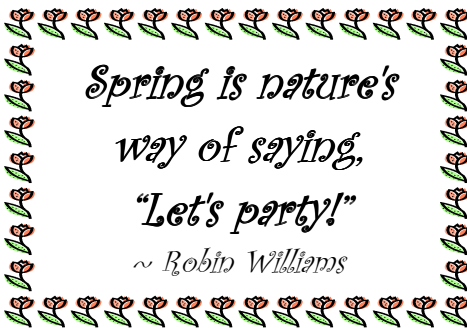
I'm tired of clutching any available handhold just to get from my front door to my car, and then when I get there tired of chipping through ice to open the door so I can find my scraper and chip more ice off my windshield. I'm tired of my sore thumb, sprained from falling in the aforementioned icy driveway a month ago, and I'm tired of tip-toeing across parking lots. I'm tired of watching (and hearing) branches weighed down with ice snap out of my trees, tired of ice-coated lines and downed branches causing power outages, tired of mopping melted ICE off my basement floor.

Oh, by the way, did I say I was tired of the ice this winter???

I'm even tired of hearing acquaintances greet me with "Icy enough for you?"

I can smile, though, knowing mud season is right around the corner, and with it the welcome sound of "Is it spring yet?"

~Robin Tupper, Landscape Designer



Pondless Water Features

One of the fastest growing areas of the water feature industry is pondless water features. The joy of the pondless waterfall is that it gives the sound and beauty of a waterfall without the many problems associated with a pond.

Parents of young children often worry about the safety of a traditional pond. Ponds are magnets for young children. The most obvious hazard is drowning, but even though most ponds are not too deep, they generally have rocks that could easily cause unconsciousness if the child were to slip and fall.

Pondless waterfalls are easier to maintain because of the simple fact that there is no pond. No pond means there are no fish to keep (it is illegal to stock ponds in Maine with goldfish or Koi). One of the benefits of not having a pond with fish is that the pump does not need to run constantly to provide aeration. It could be placed on a switch or timer to be used only when needed. The pump will therefore last much longer and cost less to use than it would in a traditional pond application. No fish can also make it less attractive to wild (or even domestic) animals. The only real maintenance is to occasionally clean the filter so the pump does not have to work too hard, and add water occasionally to compensate for evaporation.

Ease of installation makes the pondless waterfall the ideal water feature for the difficult site because it requires a smaller pit. Design considerations are not as important as they would be with a pond, although the waterfall/stream portion would be basically the same. Traditional ponds require planning the shape to increase water flow in order to avoid stagnant areas. Eliminating standing water also reduces habitat for mosquito larvae. Also, with a traditional pond the skimmer needs to be placed at the surface of the pond, making it a possible eye-sore that must be dealt with.

Call us if you're interested in finding out more about pondless water features. We can show you ways they can be incorporated into your outdoor living space. You may find them be something that can dramatically increase your outdoor enjoyment.



Employee Spotlight - Nicole Davis Office Manager / Vice President

If you've ever called Davis Landscape with questions about your statement, you probably know Nicole! From bookkeeping and billing to customer service and payroll, she can find the answer.

Nicole started part-time doing filing and general office duties when she was fourteen, hanging around the office after school with her Dad. She thoroughly enjoyed working in the office atmosphere and was particularly proud to be able to help in the family business. Her Dad, Conrad, was pretty proud to have her around as well!

She has been full-time since 2003, and serves as the Office Manager for the Company. She has also been recently promoted to the position of Vice President of the Company, and now more than ever, she exemplifies her pride in being such an integral part of the "family" business.

Nicole is a graduate of St. Dominic Regional High School in Auburn and attended the University of Maine in Orono. She is presently furthering her education attending Central Maine Community College, majoring in Business Management. She resides in Lewiston with her dog Weezy, and also works part-time as a bartender at Marco's Restaurant, where she can make a pretty mean Margarita!

Lawn Care Program Notes

With spring just around the corner, (**we can hope!**), it is time to prepare for another season of lawn care. The following is a list of things to consider as warmer weather approaches:

- Before the spring rush, take the lawn mower in for a tune-up and blade-sharpening. (A great tip is to keep an extra mower blade on hand. They should be sharpened periodically during the growing season, so you can always have one while the other is at the shop.) Small equipment repair shops are best equipped to do this properly. At the same time check the blade height. The best all-around setting for your turf is 3 inches (although 2.5 is acceptable when **plenty** of moisture exists). Also change the oil and change/clean the filter as needed.
- Rake off lawn debris. Old leaves, excessive dead foliage, and road gravel plowed onto the lawn in the winter should be removed as soon as the ground thaws enough to encourage strong growth. Raking should also be done before the application of pre-emergent weed controls since the debris might block penetration to the soil and heavy raking may destroy the "soil barrier" such products create.
- Identify whether or not spring seeding is needed. Call early to request an estimate, or call to let us know so that a pre-emergent is not applied to an area that has been or soon will be seeded.

~ Chris Turmelle, Lawn Care Program Manager

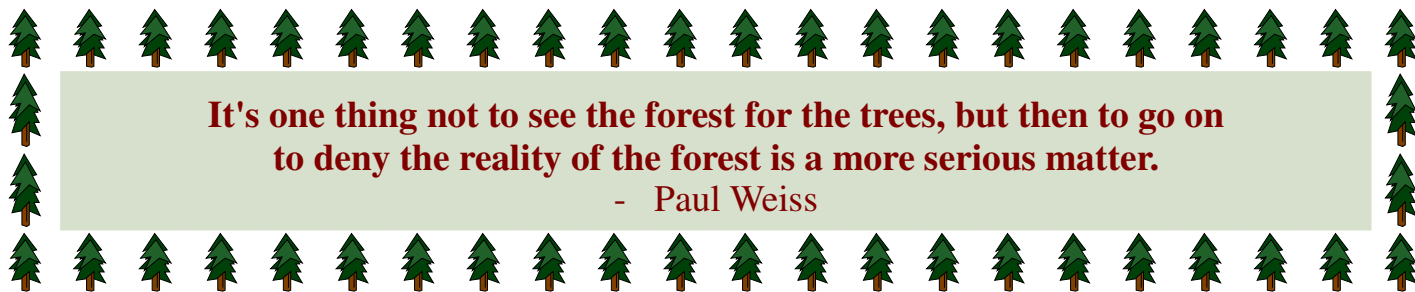
Indoors or out,
no one relaxes
In March, that month
of wind and taxes,
The wind
will presently disappear,
The taxes
last us all the year.
~ Ogden Nash

From Gary's Desk

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm looking forward to the upcoming landscaping season. This winter has been a pain in the neck, one snow storm after another. Oh well.... life in Maine!

We've just come back from a six-week hiatus, and have begun getting trucks and equipment cleaned and serviced. The new catalogs are coming in, and the sales and design departments are going over them to see what is new and exciting for spring. Work is proceeding along very nicely and we will be ready for the spring rush. I hope to hear from all of you in the upcoming months. Until then have a great rest of winter.

~ Gary Booker, Operations Manager



It's one thing not to see the forest for the trees, but then to go on to deny the reality of the forest is a more serious matter.

- Paul Weiss

In The Flower Garden

February / March Garden Chores

Start Seeds Indoors - Most seeds can be started six to eight weeks before the last frost date, so that means starting vegetables and annual flowers in the next few weeks. A general idea for the last average frost date is usually the last full moon in May, this year the date is the 20th.

You can plant cool-season vegetables and flowers as soon as you can easily work the ground. These include radishes, peas, sweet peas, lettuces, and other greens. Wait to plant warm-season vegetables and flowers like tomatoes, peppers, basil, marigolds, and petunias until past all danger of frost. Plant seedlings of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbages, and others. Be careful when working the soil this month. If it's too wet, it will dry out in hard clumps, ruining that all-important soil texture.

Remove Winter Protection - If you wrapped or otherwise provided heavy winter protection for your shrubs, remove it this month. Wait to remove soil from around the base until late this month or early next. Remove mulch from perennials and bulbs once they show signs of new growth.

Prune Trees and Shrubs - On nice days this month and next, take the opportunity to prune trees and shrubs, but be careful not to prune flowering trees and shrubs - you don't want to

trim off developing buds. You can prune flowering trees and shrubs about a month or so after they flower. Wait on oaks - they should be pruned mid-summer to avoid wilt diseases. Prune roses this month or next once the red leaf buds are starting to swell or are just barely starting to unfurl. Prune evergreens any time from now until late summer. If you prune later than that you'll prompt new, tender growth that will get zapped by winter's cold.

Perennials - On those same nice days, check on your perennials. Temperature extremes can frost heave and slightly uproot some shallow-rooted plants. Give them "the February stomp" by pressing them down firmly with your foot.

In late March, plant window boxes, pots and containers with cool-season flowers that can withstand frost and even snow. Icicle Pansies are my favorite. You can even fill your containers with pots of purchased forced spring-bulbs, such as tulips or daffodils to brighten these spots.

Stored and Forced Bulbs - Check any stored plant roots or corms such as dahlias, tuberous begonias, cannas, or gladiolas for shriveling or decay. Throw out any that are damaged. Check any bulbs potted last fall for early spring color. As a rule of thumb, when the foliage is about an inch high, it's time to take them out of the cold spot and into the light and warmth.

When To Plant - Plant bare-root trees and shrubs as well as bare-root roses as soon as you can work the soil. Plant container-grown trees, shrubs, perennial herbs, and perennial flowers as long as you're within one month of your region's last frost date. You can get a general idea by clicking on our map, but to find out precisely, give any local garden center a quick call.

Leaf Disposal - Rake and dispose of leaves, pull obvious weeds, and cut back any perennials still standing, as well as ornamental grasses. Their tough stalks can be hard to cut even with long-handled loppers. A power hedge trimmer, however, makes the job a lot easier.

Bird Feeding - If you've been feeding birds, don't stop now! Birds become reliant on food sources in the fall, so if that supply disappears, they can go hungry. This is also a great time to clean out and repair birdhouses used by summer visitors.

Tool Care - Now's the time to spruce up hand tools and power tools so they are ready when you need them.

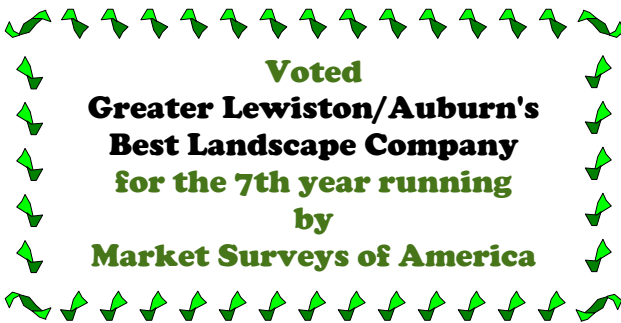
Houseplant Basics - Most houseplants grow slowly during the winter months as well, so don't fertilize and water only as necessary.



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SEE US ON THE WEB!
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Services

- Landscape Design
- Planting
- Seed and Sod Lawns
- Lawn Sprinkler Systems
- Fertilization and Weed Control
- Lawn and Garden Insect Control
- Paver, Brick, and Natural Stone Walkways and Patios
- Segmental Concrete Block, Natural Stone, and Timber Retaining Walls
- Ornamental Ponds and Water Features
- Pruning
- Excavation and Grading

President's Message

This has certainly been the harshest winter in recent memory. I think all of us are ready and eager for the "green" of spring. Though it may be difficult to imagine, spring truly is a short distance away. The time is quickly approaching wherein yards will need to be cleaned, lawns and plant material fertilized, and our thoughts move to the wonderful visions of Spring.

I recommend that you call any of your Landscape Professionals here at Davis Landscape soon, so that you can get scheduled early in the season and enjoy the full beauty of the upcoming "Green" Season. As always, please feel free to contact me personally anytime.

On behalf of myself and my staff,
"WELCOME SPRING"

~Conrad P. Davis, II

St. Patrick's Day New England Boiled Dinner

- 2 1/2 pounds corned beef brisket
 - 3 tablespoons pickling spices, 3 bay leaves and 5 black peppercorns, tied in a cheesecloth bag
 - 2 potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
 - 3 carrots, cut into 4 pieces
 - 1 onion, quartered
 - 2 parsnips, cut into chunks
 - 2 turnips, cut into chunks
 - 1 small cabbage, cut into wedges
 - 1 tablespoon salt
- Horseradish cream:
- 1 cup sour cream
 - Up to 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
 - Salt and pepper
 - Hot pepper sauce as desired

In a large pot combine meat, spice bag and enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 2 hours. Add vegetables and salt. Simmer 30 minutes more.

Make horseradish cream: In a small bowl combine sour cream and horseradish; season to taste with salt, pepper and hot pepper sauce.

To finish, remove corned beef to a carving board and slice against the grain. Transfer to a platter. Drain broth and reserve for soup, if desired. Arrange vegetables around meat and serve.