

# Winter Newsletter 2012

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We made it through another hot and dry year. After a fairly dry winter we did have an increase of rain during early spring but by April we fell into our dry weather pattern. We had above average temperatures in early May slipping to below average then giving us another brutally hot and dry summer.

At least the hot temperatures did not last into the month of October as they did in 2010! In fact we had a very nice, cool fall for a change.

If we had received normal rainfall during July, August and September, the impact on our landscapes would not have been as severe during these heat waves. These extremes always cause lasting damage to our landscapes.

The main damage resulted from high temperatures. Even with irrigation, the high air temperatures caused heat scorch on many trees, shrubs and lawns. Over all, tree and shrub pest populations were normal. Army worms levels were also down this year not repeating the 2010 mass attack.

The hot, dry soil conditions also caused root system deterioration on plants that were not being irrigated properly. This damage requires some plant TLC. Our programs are designed to assist you in providing that TLC for adequate recovery. Your responsibility is to provide adequate and correct watering and proper cultural practices.

Once again we ended 2011 with Lake Lanier being 12 feet low. Hopefully, the lake recovers over winter and we can start the year with a full pool!

As we have always preached, you can have a great landscape by only watering one time per week if you need to water. This goes for turf and trees and shrubs. If your plants are correctly planted then one application of water per week gives adequate water to see the plants through the dry spells. Just because

we can water three times per week doesn't mean we should.

Our tree and shrub and lawn care programs are designed to work best when you follow correct watering recommendations and most importantly and uniquely, we use additives in our proprietary fertilizer mixes that not only increase water penetration but also improve the soil's ability to retain moisture.

As we see in the last months of each year, winter weeds in the **fescue** develop to some extent. This year we are seeing more prostrate pigweed, dock and annual bluegrass. **The presence of winter weeds is normal in fescue since no pre-emergent can be applied to the fescue in the fall due to the seeding operations.** The first and second applications next year will take care of these weed problems as well as the weeds in the warm season turf.

While Prestige provides the necessary nutrients and pesticides, **you** need do nothing to your turf until March when it is time to scalp and aerate warm season turf. In April, the fescue will start needing your attention also.

Other than monitoring your winter rainfall and addressing the possible need for supplemental irrigation when the temperatures allow, your **trees and shrubs** will over winter without additional care with one caveat!

A good habit to cultivate is proper mulching and also keeping your plant crowns clean of leaves. Especially during the fall leaf clean up we see a lot of leaves falling and being blown into the shrubbery. All these leaves begin to build up in the crown of the plant and eventually the resultant debris layer begins to cause problems for the plant. The best bet is to blow your leaves into your native or mulched areas and keep them away from the shrubbery.

We thank you for your business and are looking forward to the challenge of keeping your landscape healthy in 2012.

As Always, Your Programs Will  
Begin Automatically Next Year  
Unless You Call To Cancel.