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Petite Gardenscapes

Sensible designs for the weekend gardener

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Special Interest Articles:

- Salt Damage and salt -resistant plants
- Adding shrubs, dwarfs and miniatures to your landscape
- Winter tree and shrub care



Picea glauca
'Rainbow's End'

Courtesy

www.nugapuukool.ee

Questions or comment? Contact Pat at pbaganz@voyager.net or at 262-353-6555

Winter Salt Damage /Solutions

If you lost plants that you had planted close to your driveway or your street last winter, salt damage may have been the culprit- and with the amount of snow we've had this season, we're in for the same. Those browned evergreens along I-94, the leaf or flower buds that failed to open or that twiggy growth known as "witches broom" are the result of water taken up by the roots being changed by the absorption of the

salt in the soil.

What can you do?

***Shield** your plants from the snowblower

*Plant **annuals** which die anyway

*Use **calcium chloride** or coarse sand on your driveway and sidewalks instead of sodium chloride (rock salt)

***Wash** the salt out of the soil in the spring to prevent further damage..

*Plant **salt resistant** perennials, shrubs and trees:

-Serviceberry (Amelanchier)

-Arrowwood Viburnum

-Rugosa Roses

-Hydrangeas

-Alpine Currant

-Japanese Tree Lilac

-Ginkgo Biloba trees

These are all hardy in our area.

Give Dwarfs and Miniatures a Chance

Looking for small conifers for your garden? There are lovely small trees and shrubs available to the gardener, but first, some definitions may be helpful. In Shrub and Tree world:

A **large** tree grows more than **12 inches** per year

An **intermediate** grows between **6-12 inches** per year

A **dwarf** grows between **1-6 inches** per year.

A **miniature** grows **less than 1 inch** per year

A dwarf plant simply

means that it is smaller than the native species. If the native achieves an adult height of 40 feet, a dwarf variety may be 12 feet tall. The key is to research those conifers and find which ones fit your garden space and temperature zone. Well-trained nursery staff will let you know what you can expect of a shrub or tree when it reaches maturity- in about ten years.

A few good dwarf conifers are (with common name, botanical name and height):

-Birds Nest Spruce (Picea abies 'Nidiformis') 3 ft

-'Rainbows End' white spruce (Picea glauca) 4 ft

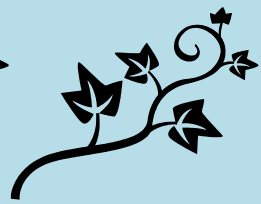
-'Golden Mop'sawara cypress (Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Golden Mop') 2-3 ft

-Golden Eastern Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis 'Reingold') 3ft.

-'Technito' Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis 'Technito') 4 ft.

More information at

www.taunton.com



Pat's Shrub Picks



Tiger Eye Sumac

Courtesy www.waysidegardens.com

Here's a partial list of shrubs to consider for your perennial garden or border that will offer structure and "bones" as well as texture and color. And remember: shrubs are less work! As always, the common name is followed by the botanical name so you can ask for them at your nursery.

*Tiger Eye Sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Tiger Eye')

*Koreanspice Viburnum 'Compacta' (*Viburnum carlessii*)

*Paliban Dwarf Lilac (*Syringa meyeri*)

*'Gold Tide' Forsythia (*Forsythia intermedia*)

*Sixteen Candles Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)

*'Golden Spirit' Smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*)

*'Dark Horse' Weigela (*Weigela florida*)

You can find all the species mentioned here at www.hort.uconn.edu in their plant database. You can look either by common name or botanical name. You may not find all the new varieties that I have listed here, but you'll get general information about the plant. Best of all, they're Wisconsin hardy.

Winter Tree Care

by Elizabeth O'Connell-Ozaukee Gardener

*"A little bit of work
during the cold weather
can pay off....this
spring"
Elizabeth O'Connell."*



Dark Horse Weigela

Courtesy www.planthaven.com

Although your garden work may seem to be over by the time snow covers the ground, winter is an excellent time to get outside and do some late season maintenance. A little bit of work during the cold weather can pay off with healthier trees and shrubs this spring.

Winter is an ideal time to evaluate trees and shrubs. The leafless branches make it easy to spot problem branches and perform necessary pruning. Look for broken branches, swellings where bark is damaged and crossing branches. All are signs of potential problems.

It's particularly important to identify and remove crossing branches. Areas where the bark is constantly abraded by branches rubbing in the

wind can give insects and pathogens entry into the plant, damaging branches and in some cases, killing the tree.

Some trees, such as oaks, are susceptible to viral diseases that are dormant in low temperatures and they can only be trimmed when the weather is below freezing for extended periods. Pruning these trees during summer months runs the risk of infecting them with fatal diseases.

Winter is also the ideal time to check trees and shrubs for insect problems. Gypsy moth egg masses are covered in light tan hair from the female moth's body and can be spotted on bare branches and tree trunks as well as lawn furniture and houses. Any egg masses should be

removed and soaked in kerosene or covered in vegetable oil and sealed in airtight baggies to kill the larva. Scraping the mass off the bark will not kill the eggs. They will still hatch and attack your trees.

Winter is also the best time to trim shrubs that are overgrown and lift the crown on mature trees that are shading lawns and gardens. Trimming off the lower branches of mature trees or lifting the crown adds light to areas close to the tree's trunk

Homeowners may find it hard to negotiate snow covered ground, but arborists expect to work through the winter and will be able to tackle large jobs. Paying attention now can add to the vitality and enjoyment of your trees and ornamental shrubs.