

From Pat at

Bell Nurseries

Fall Care for Trees and Shrubs

With September being exceptionally dry, we recommend continuing to water new and stressed plants twice a week to prepare them for winter. Ensuring plants are fully hydrated will help them survive potential winter drought. Adding a layer of bark mulch will insulate plant roots from cold temperatures and help retain soil moisture.

- **Fertilizing:** Stop fertilizing by Labor Day to let plants harden off and improve their winter survival. However, we recommend a winter feeding between December and March for optimal growth.
- **Pruning:** Limit trimming flowering trees and shrubs, as flower buds may already be forming, and pruning them now can reduce their spring bloom. Prune Dogwood, Birch, and Maples only when they're in full leaf. Most non-flowering trees can be pruned as needed.
- **Pest Control:** Applying horticultural oil before spring bud break is an effective and safe method to control overwintering insects and their eggs, especially on fruit trees.

Always read the instructions on fertilizer and pesticide labels carefully.

