



Pumpkin Brook Organic Gardening, Inc.

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In This Issue

[De-Icer Caution](#)

[Late Winter Pruning](#)

[Crew Completes Winter Training](#)

[Garden Pest: Snowball Aphid](#)

[February Is the Time For](#)

Hello!

Our [seedling order form](#) is ready, so please take a look and return your completed orders by **March 17**. This deadline gives us time to grow the plants in the proper quantities for you. Note that this year the form is **available here only**; it won't be mailed out.

Look for our spring letter in your U.S. mailbox soon. This will have a services survey to complete and return to us by **March 17**. Plant Health Care contracts (including compost tea) will be enclosed as well. Please let us know if questions arise. By the way, we are more than willing to meet with you to discuss plans in person. [Just let us know](#). Thanks!

De-Icers Can Be Hazardous to Plants

Before you use any more salt on your walkways, please read the [attached article](#) written by Scott LaFleur, Horticulture Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, on why de-icers can be hazardous to your plants.

The use of salt in March when plants are breaking dormancy and taking up a lot of fluid is when they are most susceptible.

Late Winter Pruning

February begins the time for dormant season pruning, through March and early April, before all the leaves emerge to hide the true structure of the plant. Further, troublesome pests and diseases are not active and cannot spread through pruning cuts. Carmine, Jarrod, Al and Stephanie have a list of pruning projects to tackle as soon as weather conditions permit. A warm sunny day with minimal snow cover is ideal for this type of work. Fruit trees are on their list, along with an overgrown Japanese maple and a forsythia patch. Let us know if you have a woody deciduous plant (without leaves right now) that could use a professional overhaul.



Photo of Crab Apple Tree in Need of Pruning

Crew Completes Winter Training

Susan, Sarah, Lisa, and Jarrod completed the five-day [NOFA Organic Land Care](#) Course in January. Congratulations! They are now Accredited Organic Land Care Professionals, along with many others on our staff. As I was one of the founders of this program back in 1999, I make a point of sending our deserving crew members to this information-packed event.



Susan, Sarah, Lisa & Jarrod at NOFA Training

Steph is attending the design seminar sponsored by New Directions in the American Landscape this month. Al completed the Green School training sponsored by UMass Extension in early December, passing his exam with flying

colors. And nearly all our staff attended New England Grows in Boston, a multi-day conference and trade show!



Close Up of Aphid
Photo courtesy of Utah State
University Ext
IPM Program

Garden Pest: Snowball Aphid

Carmine has put together a horticultural oil spray route to tackle the Snowball Aphid. Many of you have the Korean Spice Viburnum in your garden, and some of you have Harry Lauder's Walking Sticks. In the past few seasons, temperatures have warmed up early in March, resulting in a fast advance of the spring leaf out. The Snowball Aphid quickly damages the new leaves as shown in the photo. A spray of hort oil in late February/early March on the dormant twigs will smother the eggs of this pest. If we wait until our usual first visits in late March/early April, we'll miss the window of opportunity for control and the eggs may have already hatched! Carmine will be contacting you soon to let you know when he's coming your way.



Leaf Curling Damage
Photo courtesy of Utah State
University Ext IPM Program

February Is the Time For



Lavatera trimestris
'Silver Cup'

- Finishing seed orders
- Ordering seedlings
- Reviewing plans for our landscape services for 2011
- Sharpening gardening tools
- Reading some [good gardening books](#)
- Pondering design issues
- Looking, observing, note taking
- Applying horticultural oil sprays to trees and shrubs, only when temperatures are above freezing for a couple of days
- Pruning deciduous shrubs and small trees - thinning out the oldest wood, removing broken branches and creating an open structure

Quick Links

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Sincerely,
Priscilla

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