

THE



Sunrise

landscape + design
Managing + Designing Landscapes Of Distinction For Over 20 Years

VIEW



From the President



Dear Valued Customers,

Your landscape is a long-term investment that can add beauty, value and enjoyment to your property. As with any investment,

it's always a good idea to get professional advice and help. After all, you wouldn't hire just anyone off the street to handle your retirement, give legal advice or even repair your vehicle. I am constantly amazed at the unqualified, untrained, uneducated "companies" that people hire to do landscaping work on their properties.

Often, these guys are hired because they give the lowest quote. And just as often, their work is of low quality, which can set the value of your landscape (and home) back several years and actually cost you more than you may have saved. How, you ask? Consider improper pruning as an example. The buds for next year's flowers might accidentally be removed, or valuable specimen plants that are worth thousands of dollars might be damaged. The same applies to landscape construction, where improper design and installation can cause long-term drainage issues and excessive maintenance, and even bring down the value of your home. Think about it...if you were looking to buy a home and you noticed that the landscaping wasn't properly maintained or the patio had sunk or the drainage wasn't properly handled, would you buy that home?

The point I'm trying to make is that if you were to use a trained landscape professional in the first place, with proper long-term planning and up-to-date installation techniques, you would actually improve the value of your home by making it a more desirable place to live, a safer place to visit and the envy of the neighborhood. Call Sunrise Landscape + Design today to help you get the most out of your investment. All of our employees spend countless hours getting trained and obtaining certifications. Their licenses are current in the latest techniques to ensure that all jobs are done properly and can actually save you money. Our number one priority is to help maintain and increase the investment you make in your home. We're here to take the worry out of your landscape.

Sincerely,

Joe Markell

Joe Markell

Gearing Up for Winter

GET YOUR LAWN AND LANDSCAPE READY FOR THE COLD MONTHS AHEAD

Though summer is behind us and plant growth is slowing considerably, there's still work to be done on your property before winter arrives. Here are some basic items to take care of this fall:

YOUR LAWN

- If your turf hasn't been aerated yet, have us do it soon. This will help to break up the thatch layer and improve the flow of air, water and nutrients to the roots.
- We recommend at least one heavy dose of fertilizer. This will promote a deeper, stronger root system for earlier, thicker green-up in the spring.
- Mowing should continue as long as the grass keeps growing, with a final mowing height of 1½" to 2½" going into winter (shorter grass will be less susceptible to snow mold and powdery mildew diseases).
- We can remove leaves and other debris that can smother your grass over the winter.

YOUR LANDSCAPE

- Trees and shrubs will benefit significantly from an application of fertilizer.
- Spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils can be planted now. Keep in mind that they need to be planted where they'll get lots of sunlight in the spring.
- Bird baths should be emptied, and consider draining any garden pools to prevent freezing damage over the winter.
- We can add mulch to your planting beds.
- Perennials can be cut back now, and spent annuals should be removed.
- Start planning now for any dormant/off-season pruning you need us to do on your property.

See to these tasks now, and you'll notice a big difference in the looks and health of your lawn and landscape when spring returns! Give Sunrise a call today for more information.



"I fired the contractor and called Sunrise. Joe Markell met with me at my home the same day I called him and I signed a contract the next day. The following day he had a full crew out at our house redoing the mishaps of the previous contractor and finishing the job. It is imperative to find a reputable company that will spare you needless stress, drama and insanity. I would highly recommend Sunrise services to anyone without reservation."

*Christopher G.
Leesburg, VA*

DEFY THE DRY WITH ANTIDESICCANTS

Though evergreens are known for their ability to stay green throughout the winter, their foliage is still susceptible to turning brown, and even falling off, as a result of winter burn. This condition is a result of winter's bright sun and dry winds pulling moisture out of evergreen needles and leaves. It's made even worse when frozen soil prevents roots from taking up enough water.

The best way to protect against winter burn is to have your evergreens treated with an antidesiccant spray in the fall. Antidesiccants, also known as antitranspirants, are biodegradable latex materials that form a barrier against dry winter winds and help to seal moisture inside needles and leaves. The spray wears off when new growth begins again in the spring.

An added benefit to antidesiccants is their tendency to make evergreen needles and leaves shine in sunny conditions. So, not only can your valuable trees and shrubs be protected, but they can be made to look prettier too!



"We have worked with Sunrise for over 10 years. Their services have included landscaping, stone work, transplanting of large plants, and annual spring and fall clean-up. You can count on their service."

Pat M.
Great Falls, VA

Steering Clear of Deer

FEEDING DAMAGE CAN BE PREVENTED

Who hasn't felt the frustration of deer nibbling on their plants at one time or another? Not only can their feeding activity compromise the looks and health of your landscape, but deer can cause considerable damage by rubbing their antlers against tree bark as well.

One strategy for preventing deer damage is to stick with plant species that deer don't usually feed on. Some of these include barberry, paper birch, common boxwood, Russian olive, American holly, drooping leucothoe and Colorado blue spruce. However, no species is completely immune from damage, since deer will feed on just about any plant if they're hungry enough. That's why alternative strategies such as deer repellents, netting and fencing may be more practical.

DEER REPELLENTS

There are two types of deer repellents: contact repellents and area repellents. Contact repellents cause plants to taste bad through direct application to the plant. Area repellents discourage deer by creating a foul odor in a problem area. Both hot sauce and chicken egg/water mixtures have been proven effective as contact repellents. Predator urine (coyote, for example) works well as an area repellent.

NETTING AND FENCING

Netting provides an effective barrier against deer when wrapped around smaller plants. This flexible material can also be combined with support stakes to form protective fences around larger plantings.

For maximum protection, or if deer are a really big problem in your landscape, you may want to go all out with a conventional deer-proof fence. These are constructed of woven wire and should be at least 8' high. Electric fences are another possibility in extreme situations.

Your landscape doesn't have to serve as a buffet for hungry deer. Consider some of the preventative options listed above, and take your valuable trees and shrubs off their menu!

KEY POINTS

- Hungry deer will feed on just about any plant.
- Feeding damage can be prevented with repellents, netting and fencing.



Deer-feeding damage on hostas.



(703) 544-0028

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DORMANT TIMING MAKE

No matter what types of trees and shrubs you have, regular, professional pruning from Sunrise is a key to keeping them healthy. Proper pruning will help to prevent structural problems, control decay or disease, and lessen the chances of wind and storm damage in severe weather.

While pruning can certainly be done any time of the year, most trees and shrubs respond best if they're pruned in the fall or winter (while they're dormant).

Pruning at this time doesn't interfere with future buds or new growth, and it's easier to see where pruning needs to take place after leaves have fallen. As the ground hardens with cooler weather, there's less possibility of damaging your lawn. Plus, your family probably won't be on your lawn as

Make a Difference...Plant a Tree!



Tree planting is a great way to improve environmental quality while enhancing the looks of your landscape.

Planting a new tree will not only enhance the looks of your landscape, but it can help you save money on your energy bills while improving the environment we all share. Consider these statistics on the value of planting trees:

- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. *Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- If you plant a tree on the west side of your home, your energy bills should be 3% less in five years. After 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%. *Source: Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research*
- Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20%. *Source: Management Information Services/ICMA*
- One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. *Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- There are up to 200 million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential for absorbing 33 million more tons of carbon dioxide per year, which would save \$4 billion in energy costs. *Source: National Wildlife Federation*

If you're interested in adding new trees to your property this fall, Sunrise will be happy to help. Give us a call today!

"Thank you, Sunrise, for keeping my lawn cut, green and weed-free each year. I also appreciate the design, subsequent installation of stone work, and the layout for integrated landscaping."

*Peter L.
Reston, VA*

PRUNING

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Regular pruning helps to prevent health and structural problems.

much, so pruning will cause less of a disruption than it would during the summer months.

If you have any questions about dormant pruning, please give us a call.

Feed the Machine

Your lawn, trees and shrubs are constantly absorbing nutrients in order to keep growing. During the spring and summer, these nutrients are converted into food that is used for top growth. In the fall, however, top growth slows down and the focus shifts underground to the root system.

At this point, plants begin expanding their root systems and filling them with nutrient reserves to carry them over through the winter season. The more the roots are able to stow away, the better growth you can expect when spring returns. Sunrise can help this process along with a heavy application of fertilizer in the fall.

The basic ingredients in fertilizer are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen promotes color and top growth, phosphorus stimulates root development, and potassium helps plants to resist disease and conserve water.

A heavy application of these nutrients in the fall will give your lawn, trees and

shrubs the raw materials they need for extensive new root growth. This root expansion is the foundation upon which your landscape plants will grow next year.

BESIDES EXPANDING THE ROOT SYSTEM, HEAVY FALL FEEDING CAN:

- Increase resistance to disease by promoting better overall plant health.
- Improve winter color of both turf and evergreens.
- Increase water-holding ability, which can decrease the effects of winter winds that normally dry plants and cause browning of leaves and blades.
- Encourage better blooming of flowering trees and shrubs and improved density in your lawn.

When it comes to fertilization, there's no time like the present. You'll definitely notice a difference when spring returns! Give Sunrise a call to schedule this valuable service today.



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How Are We Doing?

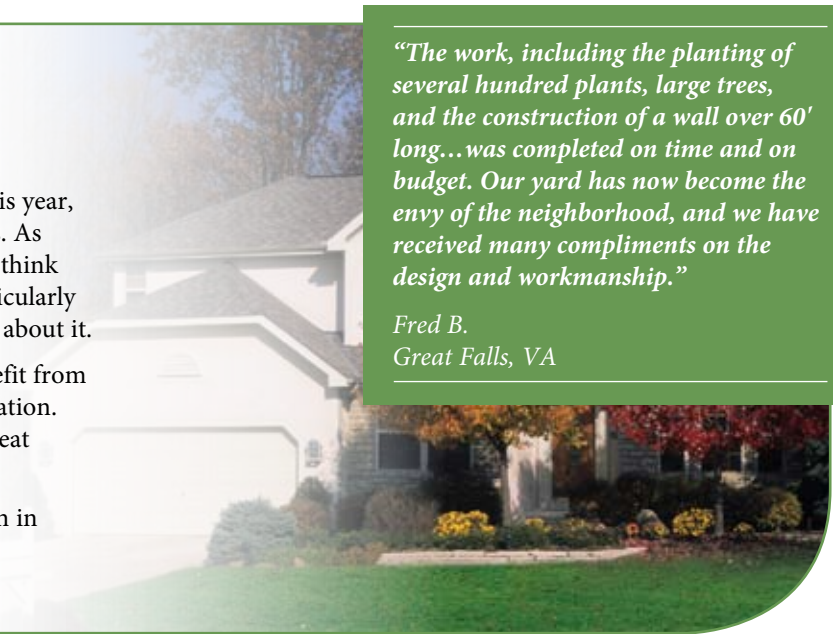
We hope you've enjoyed having Sunrise on your property this year, and we appreciate your continued confidence in our abilities. As always, we welcome your feedback. If there's something you think we can improve upon, please let us know. And if you're particularly pleased with a certain aspect of our service, we'd like to hear about it.

Have you got a friend or neighbor who you think could benefit from our services? Please have them contact us to set up a consultation. We'd love the opportunity to provide them with the same great service you've grown accustomed to.

It's been a pleasure working with you, and we'll see you again in the spring!

"The work, including the planting of several hundred plants, large trees, and the construction of a wall over 60' long...was completed on time and on budget. Our yard has now become the envy of the neighborhood, and we have received many compliments on the design and workmanship."

*Fred B.
Great Falls, VA*



Mulch is very beneficial as long as it's not applied in excess.

Beware of Too Much Mulch!

Mulch is a great addition to your landscape, especially when it's applied in the fall. Once winter temperatures begin fluctuating, mulch will help to keep the soil temperature around plants more steady than uncovered soil. It will prevent weeds from popping up and taking nutrients away from your landscape plants. Plus, it will help the soil to retain moisture throughout the winter season, which will make it easier for your plants to cope with winter stress.

Since mulch is so beneficial, it can be tempting to go overboard with the application. Too much of it, however, can do more harm than good. The total mulch depth should not exceed 4", and it should never be piled up against trunks and stems. This subjects trunks and stems to constantly moist conditions, which can encourage diseases to develop. It's also a good idea to edge beds 3" to 4" deep with a sharp spade prior to mulching. This will prevent any nearby grass from sending new shoots up through the mulch.

Applied properly, mulch will do your plants a world of good...and it makes a great finishing touch! To schedule mulching for your property, call Sunrise today.