

Winter 2012



From the Ground Up



Create a Little Bit of Nature in Your World

With the garden in hibernation for the winter, look to Unique Florists to provide a little bit of nature in your indoor world. Bring in some house plants to add beauty to your indoor environment. Not only do they look great, plants function as air purifiers absorbing some of the pollutants that decrease the air quality in our homes.

Sometimes though, the plants we keep in our homes do not perform as well as we would like. Too little light, too high a temperature, too low humidity, and improper watering are the usual causes of failure in caring for houseplants. Remember, they started their life in a greenhouse where the night temperatures are usually cool, there is ample light, and the air is moist. It is quite an adjustment to bring them into a home where light is poor and the air is dry. Do not necessarily expect to keep every plant from year to year. Enjoy them while they are attractive and in season.

Day-length is important for some houseplants which are photosensitive. This means they need a certain amount of darkness to bloom. Poinsettia, kalanchoe, and Christmas cactus bud and flower only when day length is short (eleven hours or less). However, most houseplants are indifferent to day-length.

Low light intensity can be compensated by increasing the hours the plant is exposed to light, as long as the plant is not sensitive to day-length in its flowering response as the ones listed above. Increased hours of lighting allow the plant to make sufficient food to survive and/or grow. However, plants require some period of darkness to develop properly so turn off the light after 16 hours. Too much light is as harmful as too little. When a plant gets too much direct light, the leaves become pale, sometimes sunburn, turn brown, and die. Therefore, during the summer months, protect plants from too much direct sunlight.

Plants that do well indoors are *Aglaonemas* a.k.a the Chinese evergreen, *Spathiphyllum* a.k.a. the peace lily and *Chlorophytum comosum* 'Vittatum' a.k.a. the spider plant. There are many others as well. Come in to 467 Broad St. N or at our location at the Marketplace Coop Food Store at Rochdale and McCarthy and see our selection.

Christmas tree tip:

Use generous amounts of anti-transpirant spray such as **Wilt-pruf**, available at Unique Florist, on your Christmas tree. The waxy coating helps preserve tissue moisture keeping your tree fresh through the holiday season.



Present this coupon at
Unique Florists



before December 31, 2012
and receive 30% off
any one house plant.

One coupon per customer, while supplies last.
Not for use with other specials or promotions.





Our “Spotlight On” page provides information on a different tree, shrub and perennial in each addition of “From the Ground Up”

Prairie Spire Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvainica ‘Rugby’

This very hardy tree has a narrower form than the species. The compound leaves are glossy forest green in the summer and turn an outstanding gold in the fall. Seedless, hardy and drought tolerant, it is a popular choice as a shade tree or a vertical accent in smaller yards. This tree prefers full sun, is hardy to zone 2 and attains a height of 50’ (15m) and a spread of 15’ (4.5m)



Russian Cypress

Microbiota decussata

This hardy spreading evergreen groundcover likes well drained but moist soil. It will tolerate sun to shade and is hardy to zone 2. It grows about 18” tall and spreads about 4’ across.



Karl Foerster Grass

Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’

This feather reed grass is very popular for its strongly upright form. It remains attractive for months with its dark green leaves giving way to feathery green plumes in summer until it matures into stiff wheat coloured spikes which will remain standing well into winter. It is very effective used as a single specimen in small yards, but can also be used in large groupings to create a screen or backdrop. Hardy to zone 2 this grass will grow 4-5’ tall (1.5m) and 24” wide (.6m)

Pruning Tips

It is past time to prune if the shrubbery in your foundation planting is obscuring your windows or overtaking your front walk. Here are the basics of how to prune shrubs.

Begin by pruning away dead or damaged branches with pruning shears, a lopper or saw. Your tools should be sharp enough to leave a straight clean cut with no ragged edges. A small chain saw or pruning saw is useful for thicker branches and trunks.

Prune just above the branch collar. That is the little ring of bumpy tissue at the junction of a branch and main trunk. This area is rich with plant growth cells. Leaving the collar intact gives the cut a better chance to callous over and recover from your surgery.

Always cut a branch on a slant, at a 45-degree angle, so it will not hold moisture. A flat-topped cut may cradle water when it rains, inviting fungus or disease.

For a natural look, use a technique known as “heading back.” Eyeball the bush and locate the tallest main branch until it meets a lower side branch that more or less points upwards. Cut the main branch off just above the smaller one. Repeat the process with this and all main branches, stepping back often to assess the results. Prune slightly lower than you feel really comfortable with: remember, new growth will add additional height over the next six months.

For bushes in foundation plantings, prune away any branches rubbing against the house or wall. You won't see the back of the plant, so feel free to cut back for eight to twelve inches of clearance. This improves air circulation around the back branches and ultimately results in a healthier bush.

You should not need to cover the cuts with tree paint or wax if you have made a good, angled cut at the proper time. Each species will safely heal its wounds without damage from frost, insects or disease.

When is the proper time?

Evergreens:

Junipers and cedars are best pruned during their period of active growth, from late May to early July. Consider doing a first cutting in late May and a second in early July if the amount of re-growth requires a second trim back. Avoid cutting back so severely that the remaining branch would have no foliage left—new growth will not readily sprout from very old portions of the branch.

Spruce and pine are best trimmed only on new growing points. Generally this would be in early June on the prairies. Always leave a portion of the new growing point so recovery can occur. Removing entire branches is possible, but a new branch will seldom grow from that cut point.

Deciduous:

When you can't wait to get started in the spring garden, a good task to undertake is pruning. Most trees and shrubs benefit from an annual pruning. It keeps them in shape, gets rid of dead and diseased wood and encourages new growth. Not all trees and shrubs should be pruned early, especially some of the flowering ones.

Early spring bloomers set their buds the fall before. Pruning them early in the spring would mean losing some of the blossoms. This is one of the most common reasons why shrubs do not bloom as expected. Most of the time you do not want to prune spring bloomers in early spring. However there are exceptions. It is often easier to prune when you can see the shape of the plant, before the branches are masked by leaves. Trees and shrubs that are in need of a good shaping could sacrifice a few blooms one year to be invigorated by a spring pruning.

Rejuvenate fan-shaped deciduous shrubs such as forsythia, lilacs and bush-form roses by cutting back a third of all branches right down to the ground each year.

Proper pruning time is dependent on when a particular shrub might bloom.

Trees and Shrubs to Prune in Late Spring/Summer, After Blooming:

- White blooming Spirea
- Flowering Crab-apple
- Forsythia
- Hawthorn
- Lilac
- Mockorange
- Rhododendron
- Saskatoon
- Weigela

Trees and Shrubs to Prune in Early Spring, While Dormant:

- Hydrangea
- Potentilla
- Pink blooming Spirea
- Most shrub roses which bloom pink and red



Should you hire a landscape designer?

A garden is an extension of our home and, especially with our long summer days, we spend a lot of time outside. It is a part of the social fabric that makes us who we are.

A landscape designer can help you create an outdoor environment that matches and enhances your unique lifestyle - family, couple or individual; social or solitary; seeking privacy from neighbours or wanting to include them; people who enjoy gardening and those who don't want to spend time on garden maintenance, etc.

A good designer will have an understanding of the structure of a garden, from soil and climate through to plants that suit an area, and knowledge of construction techniques. Creative flair is also important to have a space that is beautiful as well as functional.

Unique Landscapes Ltd. has been providing excellent landscape design to Regina and southern Saskatchewan since 1976. Our landscape designers will meet with you on-site or in-office to discuss your interests and needs to create the ideal landscape for your home. Completed designs in a scaled format will include such details as placement and type of plants, positions of decks, patios, walkways and other features suggested to enhance your property. Cost for this service begins at \$160.00.

Get a head start on next season. A new property with no existing elements other than the house and deck could have a design created during the winter months allowing the homeowner to begin implementation as soon as spring arrives. Contact our designers at 777-0186 or email uniquelandscapes@sasktel.net.

Unique Garden Centre gift certificates make great Gifts!!

Available at Unique Florists – with 2 locations in Regina to serve you. You choose the value. Gift certificates can be used for purchases at both of our flower shops or at Unique Garden Centre (when it re-opens in the spring).

*Season's Greetings from the
Management and Staff of*



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|  <p>Unique Florists</p> <p>We have your flowers for any occasion!!</p>  <p>467 Broad St. N. Regina, SK. S4R 2X8 Fax: (306) 545-4345 789-1010</p> <p>Sherwood Co-op (Rochdale) 777-0183</p> <p>www.uniqueflorist.ca</p> |  <p>Unique Garden Centre</p> <p>132 Broad St. N. 777-0190 www.uniquegardencentre.com</p>  <p>Re-opening in Mid-April</p> <p><i>*Ask any gardening questions to the horticulturalists we have on staff.</i></p> |
| |  <p>Unique Landscapes</p> <p>467 Broad St. N. 777-0186 Fax: (306) 545-4345 Email: uniquelandscapes@sasktel.net</p>  <p><i>*We offer both commercial and residential landscaping design services!</i></p> |