

## **PRUNING**

### **Trees**

Trees should be inspected structural pruning after the first two years of growth. A lot of trees will have breakage due to snow loads, heavy winds, human interaction or other occurrences. Having your trees pruned every 1-2 years will improve the strength and health of your tree.

### **Shrubs**

Pruning and trimming shrubs on an annual basis is important to maintain healthy, full and vigorous plants. The best time to prune flowering shrubs is immediately after flowering “Prune after Bloom”. This is so you do not prune off new buds for the upcoming season. Pruning non-flowering shrubs is best to be done in the spring time before or during budding. It should be apparent what new growth vs. dead growth there is.

Shearing of plant material is not recommended for healthy growth of plant material. Shearing tends to tear the stems instead of actually making a clean cut. This can leave a plant to send out unwanted shoots due to plant stress. Shearing can also lend room for disease and insects. It is recommended that pruning should be done by an expert to avoid potential problems.

### **Other Plants**

Ornamental grasses can be fertilized in spring-early summer. In most cases miracle grow or any garden fertilizer that can be applied once per year is sufficient. Every spring ornamental grasses should be pruned 6” above the ground. Grasses send up new growth every year, if grasses are not pruned back the old growth will stay and the plant will not thrive.

Perennial plants should be pruned or cleaned up in the spring or fall seasons. This is the removing of the dead flower heads, leaves and branches that are unwanted. All perennials come back from the base of the plant so to give your plant a “haircut” is welcomed.