

Springtime yard tips.

Hello neighbors,

As the weather warms up, I wanted to offer some gardening tips as I am an avid gardener and it will help keep your yards looking great as we are all still spending a lot of time at home.

Tree trimming now is a great time to do so. The sap will start running soon so try to trim before the buds break (flowering) on Maples, Oaks, River Birch and Zelkova -some of our parkway trees are this species.

Do not trim cherries, crabapples or other ornamental trees now as you will lose blooms. Wait until after blooming. This also applies to flowering shrubs like azalea, viburnum and hydrangea.

Aim for a natural shape with branches being close to 90 degrees from the trunk. This prevents crowding of branches that leads to unhealthy trees (breaking in winds and ice). Don't trim too far away from where the branch meets the trunk or you will invite disease or pests.

Fruit trees often sucker, sending branches up from existing branches or from the base. Those should be cut off.

Crepe myrtles can be cut back as their older growth is dead from winter (we are on the northern edge of their range) to encourage new growth and those great blooms in August.

Roses- trim canes down to 3-6 inches above the ground to encourage new growth and flowering. This also removes any diseased branches and over wintering pests.

Do not apply any fertilizer until plants are actively growing- around start of April, typically.

Pre-emergents like Preen or crabgrass preventer are good to apply now- but read the instructions carefully.

Insecticides are not necessary now, but as weather warms and they emerge, please be aware of valuable native pollinators and other wildlife, pets and kids playing in yards are impacted by overzealous or incorrect applications of pesticides. Always follow instructions.

Happy gardening!

Kathy