Poley’s Top Ten : Summer Clean up and Fall Prep Tips

Although Poley Landscape is happy to do these things for you, we know there are some of you that take pride in their “Do it Yourself” Results! To help you be more successful this Fall, Consider Poley’s Top Ten Suggestions for what you can do NOW to have a Beautiful Beginning come Spring!

1. Take an artist’s eye to your landscape. Evaluate what is working and what changes would complement your property’s exterior design. Consider what needs to be moved, added or edited. Take pictures, use plant markers, and document observations for season round interest and garden activity and locations. Make note of plants that should be divided that have outgrown their allotted space ... and also of bare areas that could use new plantings.

2. Before you dive in – consider the things you DON’T want to do just yet. Leave those plants that will continue to “bear fruit” be. Many perennials will reseed and volunteer for duty come Spring, if you allow it. Many plants, like cone flowers or berried bushes, will provide food for the birds, garden structure, and a show, right outside your window, with visiting Finches, Cardinals and Blue Jays.

3. Prepare existing beds for a last clean sweep before winter. You will appreciate this in Spring! Weed, prune, & mulch. Divide perennial blooms like iris, lilies, hostas, and coneflowers. For voracious perennials like for example, a butterfly bush or beauty berry, you can be fairly heavy handed and cut these back hard and they’ll still put on a show next Spring.

4. Plain and Simple! When Discarding Diseased Plant material - Do not add this to compost piles.

5. Create a new bed – a “Lasagna bed”! This is a great gardening technique that is an easy way to “cut” a new bed without the backache! No digging required! Start by laying down a base template of the desired bed shape using either corrugated brown cardboard or 3 layers of newspaper. Now start layering! Think of traditional composting materials. Layer materials like leaves, shredded newspaper, pine needles or peat moss as your “fatter” layer alternatively with your thin layer of grass clippings, coffee grounds & plant based food scraps, layer until your materials are close to 2 feet in height. Let it “cook” down over the winter. Come Spring, your bounty will be rich, easy to work with soil in your newly created canvas of a bed. The hardest part will be deciding what to plant!
6. Plant winter interest – trees, shrubs, perennials – this is the best time of year to plant most varieties. You will give plants a head start in Spring, after they have established a more significant root system in Fall. Protect young trees with white, spiral collars to protect them from the deer dining on young trees life sustaining bark. Consider burlap to protect from both harsh winter winds and predators for shrubs that are not yet well established.

7. Go bowling with bulbs – “broadcasting” or essentially bowling with a handful of bulbs is called “naturalizing” to give resulting spring daffodils tulips and crocus’ a beautiful and natural appearance. Tender bulbs that require “over wintering” should be dug up, dusted off, given a haircut of any remaining greens, dried out for a few days, and then put to bed with a bit of peat moss in a cardboard box and stored in a cool, dry and light limiting area for the winter.

8. Prepare “houseplants” to come back inside – first move plants to shaded areas outside for 4-7 days to acclimate them to a more limited light situation. A mild soapy “bath” can protect against infecting other houseplants with host diseases or insects, although it still may be good to quarantine plants coming in from the outside to observe and contain any problems that might have survived the ride indoors.

9. Lawns – Time to, at a minimum, feed and over seed lawns. Aerating compacted soils will help fertilizers and seed be that much more effective as an additional consideration when evaluating your lawn. Like Goldilocks, blade length ideally is not too tall, not too short, but just right for that last trim!

10. Hey ... another idea is to “Chill-lax” - catch the football game and call Poley Landscape instead!

We would love to be your Landscape Design-Install-Maintain Solution! We are happy to talk to you about how it all works - No fee, No obligation, No worries.

Actually, we just launched our new website ... www.poleylandscape.com We’d love to hear what you think! Fill out your information on our website contact page and tell us about it and your landscaping needs.

Poley Landscape
325 Saw Mill Lane
Horsham, PA 19044
215-675-0300

www.poleylandscape.com info@poleylandscape.com