

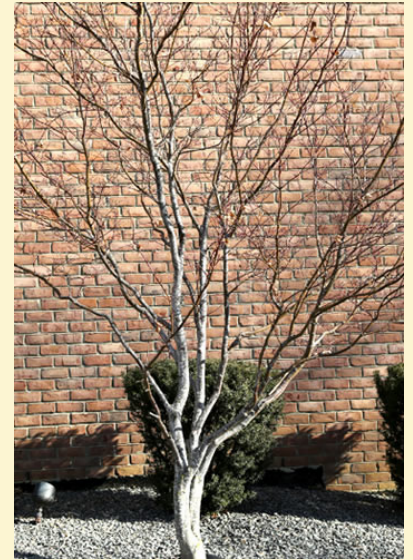
The Value of Dormant Pruning

By Michael Johnson, ISA-Certified Arborist (IN-3411A), Primary Grounds

Not many people are thinking about their trees and ornamental plants in the winter months. After all, why bother when they're just sitting there looking so lifeless?

But the fact is that the dormant season is the best time to prune trees and many ornamentals. In Indiana, dormant pruning takes place between November and March, after leaves fall and before buds break in spring. This time of year is ideal because:

1. Deciduous plants have no leaves to block a clear view of the structure of the plant and determine what needs to be removed.
2. The plant is at rest and less likely to be over-stressed by the pruning.
3. The plant is less susceptible to disease transmission and insect attack.



Some of the benefits of dormant pruning are:

1. It improves the health of your plants by removing dead, damaged, and diseased branches.
2. It enhances the structure and overall beauty of your plants by eliminating competing, crossing, rubbing and weakly attached branches.
3. It opens up the plant to sunlight and allows better air circulation.
4. It reduces risk of plant failure due to disease or wind damage.
5. It leads to a stronger, more vibrant plant in the spring.

Dormant season pruning is a practice that offers many valuable benefits for your landscape plants and should be considered a top priority in any plant health care program.



Call Primary Grounds today at 317-422-9755
to schedule a one-time FREE Arborist Assessment of your trees and ornamental plants.