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Dear Customer:

Winter will be upon us soon, and given the severity of the storms we have had I don't anticipate the Winter storms to be an lighter, therefore, it would be a good time for us to inspect your properties for any services that may be required to prepare your plant material for the season ahead. Many of you have taken my advice so far as I have very little storm damage calls from our customers. Storm emergency calls are usually from new customers. The heavy snow and ice conditions, high winds and severe fluctuations in temperatures (most commonly known as sun scald and frost cracking) can damage our trees and shrubs. With a little preventative maintenance homeowners can lessen the effects of winter weather on their plant material by doing the following:

Winter is a time to prune:

Most Arborists prefer pruning trees during the Winter when they are dormant and have no leaves as this allows the Arborist to better evaluate the architecture of the tree and spot any dead or diseased branches. A tree with good, right-angled branches will have less trouble than one with narrow crotches. Proper pruning encourages the formation of the strongest possible branches and branch attachments. When pruning alone is not enough, properly installed cables and braces can add support to a weakened part of a tree. In addition, since the ground is frozen damage to turf underneath from any falling limbs is minimal.

We do not need leaves on the trees to know which branches are dead or alive and as always our work is guaranteed.

Other ways to improve the health of your trees/shrubs:

Winter winds cause evergreens to lose moisture from their needles; actually even some deciduous trees suffer from winter drying from a lack of moisture. When there is a lack of moisture the plant material must draw moisture from living cells causing permanent damage. The best prevention consists of adequately watering plants in the Fall; aeration and fertilization and mulching the root systems.

Aeration and Fertilization: Improves water and air movement in the soil; provides nutrients to strengthen the root systems and reduces soil compaction. Included with this letter you will find a renewal form and associated cost factors indicating that it has been two (2) years since we last aerated and fertilized your plant material. If you wish to have this service again this Fall, please authorize and return the renewal form as soon as possible.

Anti-desiccants: Anti-desiccants not only help trees and shrubs retain moisture in their leaf areas, they are much more effective and less expensive than burlaping. Burlaping creates a warm atmosphere where spider mites and other insects tend to feed and thrive over the winter causing severe insect damage only to be found when unwrapped in the Spring. These anti-desiccants will be applied on a warm day in November or December to all Pines, Spruce, Junipers, Cedars, Firs, Hemlocks, broadleaf Evergreens, Rhododendrons etc.

Mulching: Mulching of the root systems insulates the soil and roots from serve cold in the Winter and holds in moisture and air the rest of the year. Also over time it decomposes to provide nutrients to the plants.

If you are interested in any of the above services, please give us a call and we will be more than happy to inspect your property and provide you with our recommendations.