



In the Garden

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, Spring 2008



A Hellebore showing its late winter finery.

A Perennial Bad Hair Day?

Do you want to avoid a year long “bad hair day” for your perennials and grasses? The biggest favor you can do your garden is a pre-spring trim and clean up. For many perennials and grasses that is all the care they require for the year, but if you miss the window of opportunity, then they’ll taunt you with messy looks all summer!

The key time for cutting back is the last week of February or the first week of March, before spring growth begins. When you get up close to your plants you’ll get the added bonus of seeing swelling buds and crowns ready to emerge-- a sign that spring is near!

Essential To-do list for late February/early March:

- Cut **ferns** back to the base (see following page for tips)
- Cut ornamental **grasses** back to the base, except for evergreen varieties
- Clear dead foliage away from the crowns of **perennials**
- Cut back **roses** by 1/3
- Prune **Hydrangeas** back to the topmost healthy buds-- don’t cut back too far or you will lose your crop of flowers
- Cut back summer blooming **Clematis** above plump buds approx. 24” from ground. Do not prune spring blooming Clematis.
- Pick up dead leaves and yard debris in general around the garden
- Clean out bird houses, soon birds will be nesting
- Clean out and fill bird baths, fountains and other water features
- Rake gravel paths and patios
- Spray or sweep other patios and paths

For a more complete, personalized “to-do” list, clients may refer to their Design Information booklet.

Tips for Cutting Back Grasses and Ferns

Since all of the foliage needs to go, you can simply grab the leaves like a pony tail and snip them right off at the base of the plant. If it is a large fern or a thick grass, it will take several handfuls.



I like to use a small manual hedge clipper, but if you have a lot of grasses or ferns to cut back, a small electric clipper will be helpful. Remember by-pass pruners are the ideal tool for cutting back roses and other shrubs. If you want more information on pruners, see *Volume 1, Issue 1, Spring 2005* in my website newsletter archive, www.edenlandscapedesign.com/newletter.htm.

This free newsletter is a service to my clients and other interested gardeners, compliments of:

Eden Landscape Design

Janene Walkky, APLD

www.edenlandscapedesign.com

If you have questions, comments, or want to unsubscribe, please contact me at:

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Upcoming Local Events

Yard Garden and Patio Show

February 15-17, 2008

Friday & Saturday 10 am- 9 pm

Sunday 10 am- 6 pm

The Oregon Convention Center

<http://www.ygpshow.com/>

I'll be at the APLD booth on Friday afternoon so please stop by!

HPSO Plant Sale

Spring Plant Sale & Garden Festival:

April 12 & 13, 2008

Saturday 10 am- 5 pm

Sunday 10 am- 3 pm

Portland EXPO Center

Portland, Oregon

<http://www.hardyplantsociety.org>

Over 100 nurseries offer a tremendous selection of plants.

APLD Certification

Perhaps you are wondering why I have the letters *APLD* behind my name--I was honored last year to become certified by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. The certification process involved submitting examples of my work to a review board, who evaluated it based on established standards of excellence for landscape design.



Enjoy your garden!