

THE WEEKEND

TREE ADVISER



January Reset: Protecting Your Plants Starts With Early Action

January is a natural pause point. With growth slowed and leaves off the canopy, winter gives us a clearer view of the landscape and a chance to reflect on what our trees and plants truly need for the year ahead.

Although much of the landscape appears dormant, important biological processes continue beneath the surface. Decisions made during this quiet season often have the greatest impact on long-term health, resilience, and stability.

With the start of the new year, the chatter is all about resetting, rebranding, and setting realistic resolutions, and we wanted to offer our take on how your land plays a role in that this new year! We'd like to pitch you a resolution for you and your property: *"This year, I will prioritize proactive plant health care to protect the safety, longevity, and resilience of my landscape."*

Here are a few winter considerations worth keeping in mind as we reset for the year ahead.

Invasive Species: Addressing Problems at Their Root



This image shows invasive bamboo taking over the native foliage on a local residential street.

One of the lesser-known realities of winter is that many invasive plants remain active while native species rest. This allows invasives to continue competing for moisture, nutrients, and space when trees and shrubs are least able to respond.

Winter removal offers a unique advantage. With reduced foliage and minimal disturbance to desirable plants, invasive species can be identified and managed more effectively. Over time, this supports healthier soils, stronger native plant communities, and improved growing conditions across the property.

Dormancy Pruning: Seeing the Structure Clearly



Pruning during dormancy is often misunderstood as cosmetic work. In reality, it is a diagnostic and preventative practice.

Without leaves, the structure of a tree is fully visible. This allows arborists to assess branch spacing, weight distribution, and potential failure points with far greater accuracy. Dormant pruning can reduce stress on the tree, improve airflow and light penetration, and help minimize future storm damage or disease development.

It is one of the few times of year when less activity above ground leads to more informed decisions overall.

Horticultural Oils: Preventative Care in Its Simplest Form



Many common insect pests overwinter on bark, buds, and stems. Left untreated, these populations can surge quickly once temperatures rise.

Dormant horticultural oil applications work by targeting overwintering insects before they become active, helping to interrupt pest cycles early. This approach supports integrated pest management by reducing reliance on reactive treatments later in the season and aligning with the plant's natural rhythms.

Quiet, early interventions often produce the most lasting results.

Plant Health Care: Thinking More Long Term



Winter is also when we step up and evaluate broader patterns. Tree health is rarely about a single treatment or season. It is the result of consistent observation, timely intervention, and an understanding of how plants respond over time.

As we move into 2026, our team continues to refine how we approach Plant Health Care, with a focus on proactive monitoring, seasonal timing, and practical long-term planning.

Our team is very excited to offer sustainable plant health care solutions and make tree and shrub care a *must* for homeowners. Whether we're educating or tackling these plants on your property, we're appreciative of getting to work for you and your neighbors this year!

A Season for Intentional Stewardship

January is not about doing more. It is about doing the right things at the right time.

By paying attention during the quiet season, homeowners set their landscapes up for fewer surprises, stronger growth, and healthier outcomes as the year unfolds.

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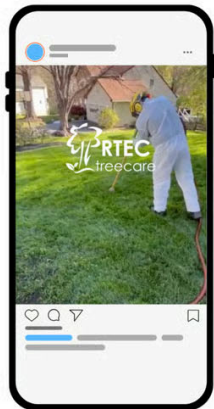
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