

## Indy Green Works

### Dormant Pruning

People tend to forget about their plants during the winter months. You might assume that because plants are dormant, there is little we can do to care for them; **“besides, it’s too cold”**. Actually dormant pruning will provide similar benefit as compared to other times of the year but I believe there are important advantages to dormant pruning well worth considering.

#### Improved Growth & Better Economics

When thinning trees or shrubs during the dormant season, a portion of the plants canopy is removed. This typically will result in an increase of new growth from the remaining branches. It occurs because energy stored in the roots and branches is channeled to fewer growth points. Therefore, there is a higher amount of stored energy available for new growth.

**How** your tree or shrub responds does not change because of dormant pruning. **Why** it responds does. *As your plants energy is released and distributed the overall health of the plant will determine how energy and food distribution is carried out. **Dormant pruning maximizes the effectiveness of spring growth.***

- If branches are dead or diseased (especially with trees) the tree will choke off the dying growth, harden off and heal itself (providing disease is not viral) **this requires increased energy. Remove these kinds of branches ASAP.**
- If branches are broken, nutrient flow will be hindered as **increased energy** is absorbed to heal tissue surrounding the break. **Remove or graft for repair**



#### By Design

Whether the cascading structure of the sand cherry shadowing the gravel bed and wall (Above) or the brilliant color contrast of the rosy glow barberry and globed spruce (Top) choosing plants for their natural growth characteristics only works if you also choose the correct location for that plant.

- **A well maintained plant will respond best to seasonal growth.** It will provide the greatest value. **A healthy tree or shrub will produce the best result from new growth.** Dormant pruning ensures success of growth in the new season. **Dormant pruning eliminates the need to compete with a busier spring schedule.** Cost savings can be expected when there is less debris to handle and work through. **Dormant pruning requires less time and improved results**

**Spring is perfect for plants as they flush out new growth. Dormant pruning is a very effective for long term landscape success.**