

Can Neighbors Landscape in the Winter?

Often times we associate landscaping with spring and fall plantings. Did you know that winter is a great time to add to your landscape? Nearly all trees and woody shrubs are quite comfortable with winter planting. Since these plants are dormant, the stress of putting out roots or maintaining a canopy (leaf cover) does not exist in winter.

Then, as temperatures slowly rise in the spring, they can begin the process of establishment with new root growth.

Many municipalities, including Knoxville, typically do most of their tree plantings in the winter months for this reason. Likewise, a landscape professional will try to encourage late fall and winter plantings, as this reduces the loss of plants that can occur at other times of the year.

Not all plants, however, are happy with winter planting. Avoid planting ornamental grasses, most perennials, and any highly herbaceous plants (those without woody bark) like hydrangeas, peonies and daylilies. Save these plants for a spring kick-off.

So, wait for that next balmy winter Saturday and get out in the yard!

For more information, contact the Tree Board at treeboard@knoxvilletn.gov.

Bob Graves, a licensed Landscape Architect, a Tree Board member, and Owner of Carex Design Group, submitted this article. His involvement with the City Tree Board stems from his passion for nature as well as his involvement in the design of the built environment.