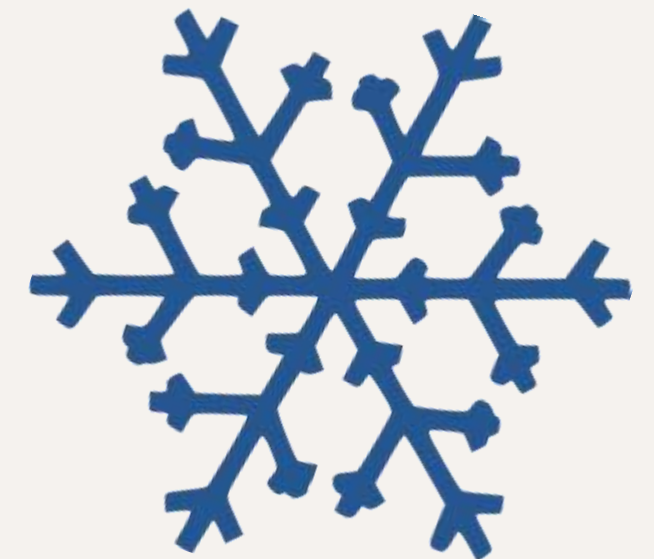


Strategies for Preparing, Prolonging, and Preserving your Landscape



DR. R.E. MOON +
ASSOCIATES
est. 1982

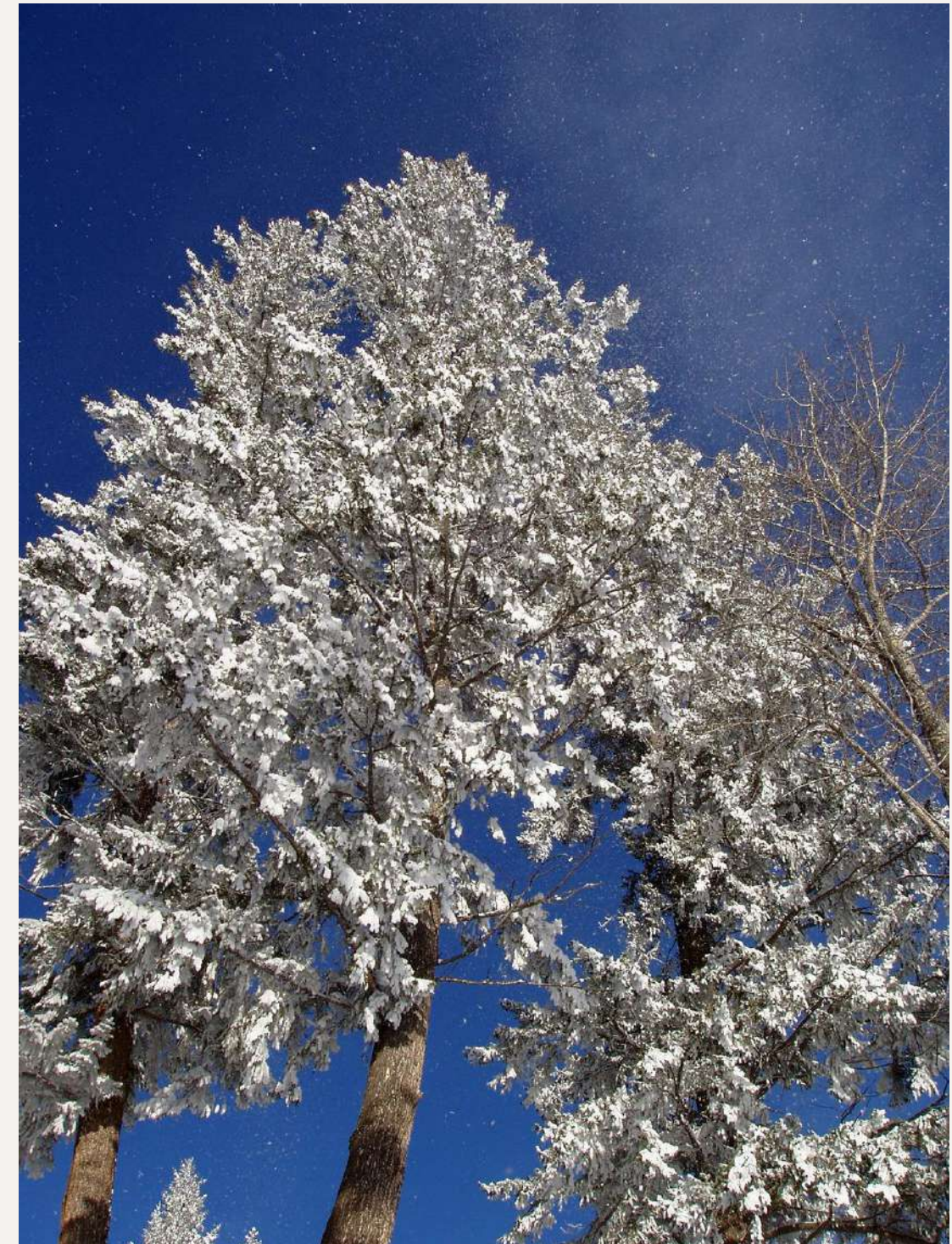


PREPARATION

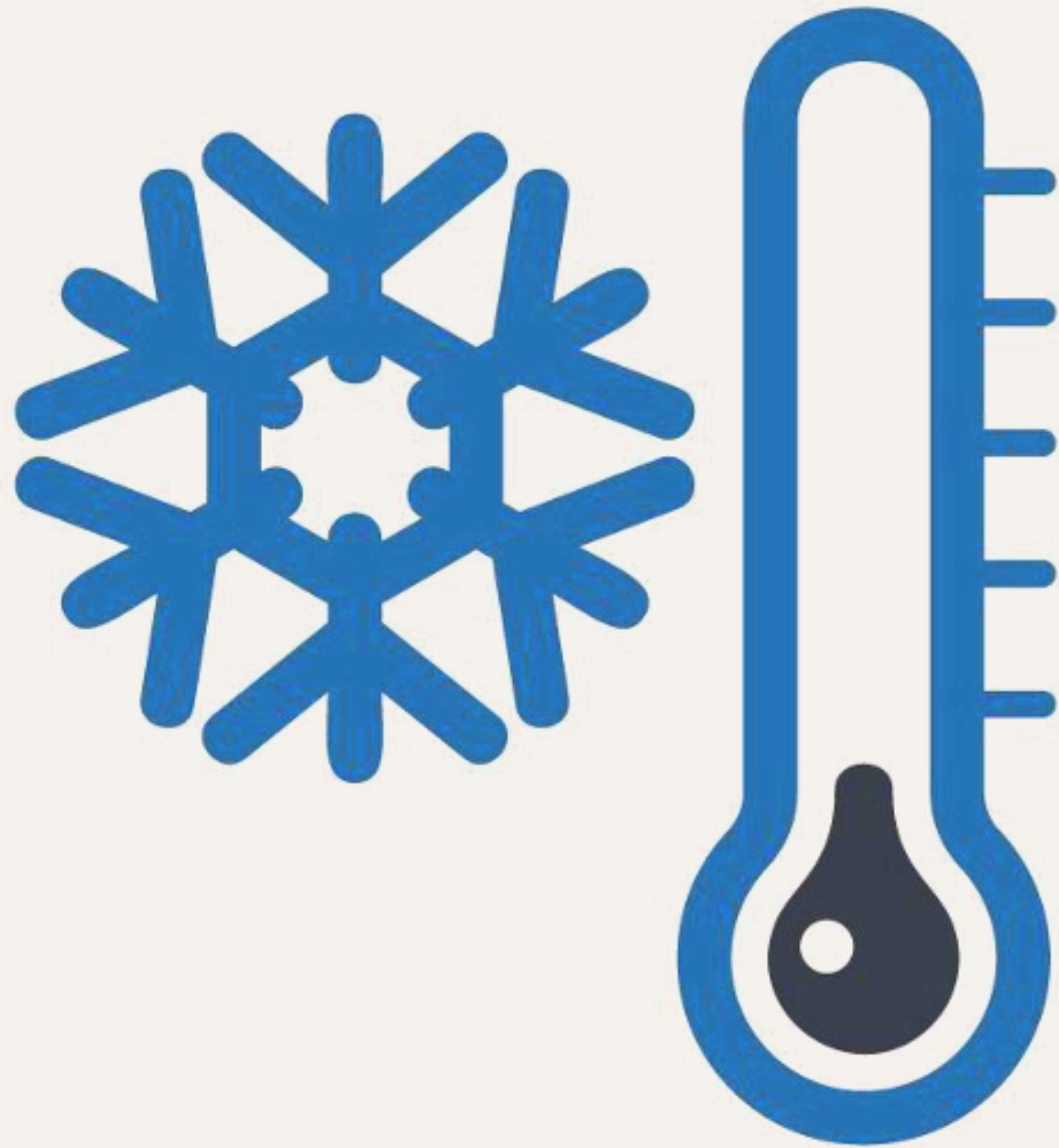
Effective **preparation** is essential for successful landscape care.

This includes planning for seasonal changes like freezing events. In Texas, temperatures falling below freezing for an extended period can damage your landscape that has not acclimated to the brutal cold.

****The best protection for your landscape is to keep it from being dry going into freezing weather.**

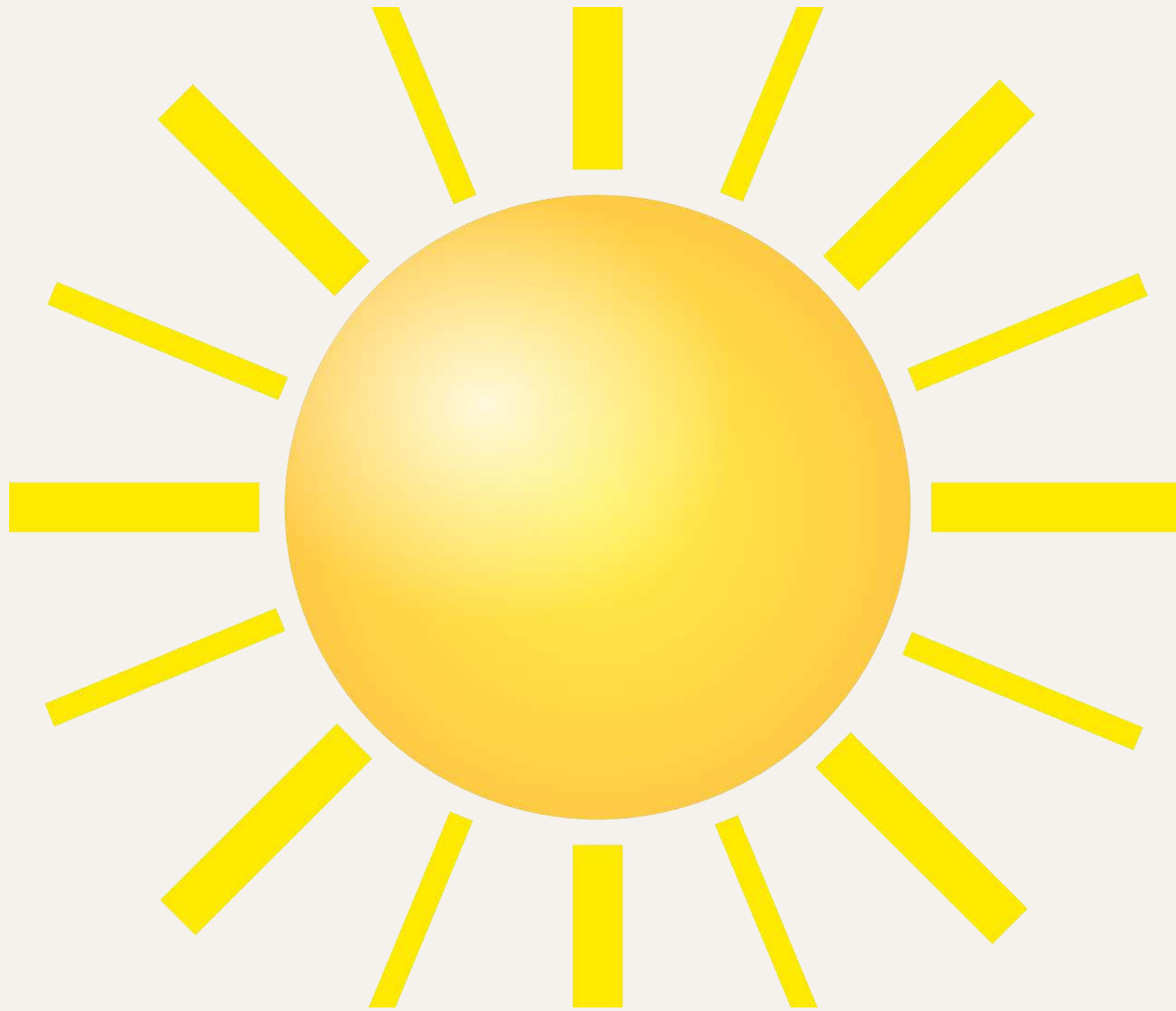


PRE-FREEZE PREP FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE



- Provide extra water to all plants, trees, shrubs, ground cover, vines, perennials, ornamental grasses, annual color, and turf (lawns). This is especially important for new plantings with a limited root system.
- Hydrated plants are better equipped to survive cold weather due to their frost protection.
- Water early, and do not water after the cold arrives.
- **Make sure irrigation systems are off during freezing weather!**
- You can also cover plants for extra protection during an extended freeze. If possible or affordable, use fabric, not plastic. To prevent disease, remove materials immediately once temperatures warm back up.

POST-FREEZE PREP FOR SPRING



- Set the irrigation timer to run once every two weeks this month. If there is rain or freezing temperatures, turn off the controller during those times.
- Cut dead tissue from trees. **For plants, grasses, and perennials, wait until the end of February to cut back and check to ensure the 10-day forecast does not call for freezing weather.**
- Mow your turf short and dethatch (if needed) to prepare your turf for pre-emergent and fertilizer.
- Aerate and apply a pre-emergent
- Fertilize your turf in MARCH
- Fertilize trees this month
- Start planning for spring color

PRODUCTS WE RECOMMEND FOR PRE-EMERGENT:



PRODUCTS WE RECOMMEND FOR TURF FERTILIZATION IN MARCH:





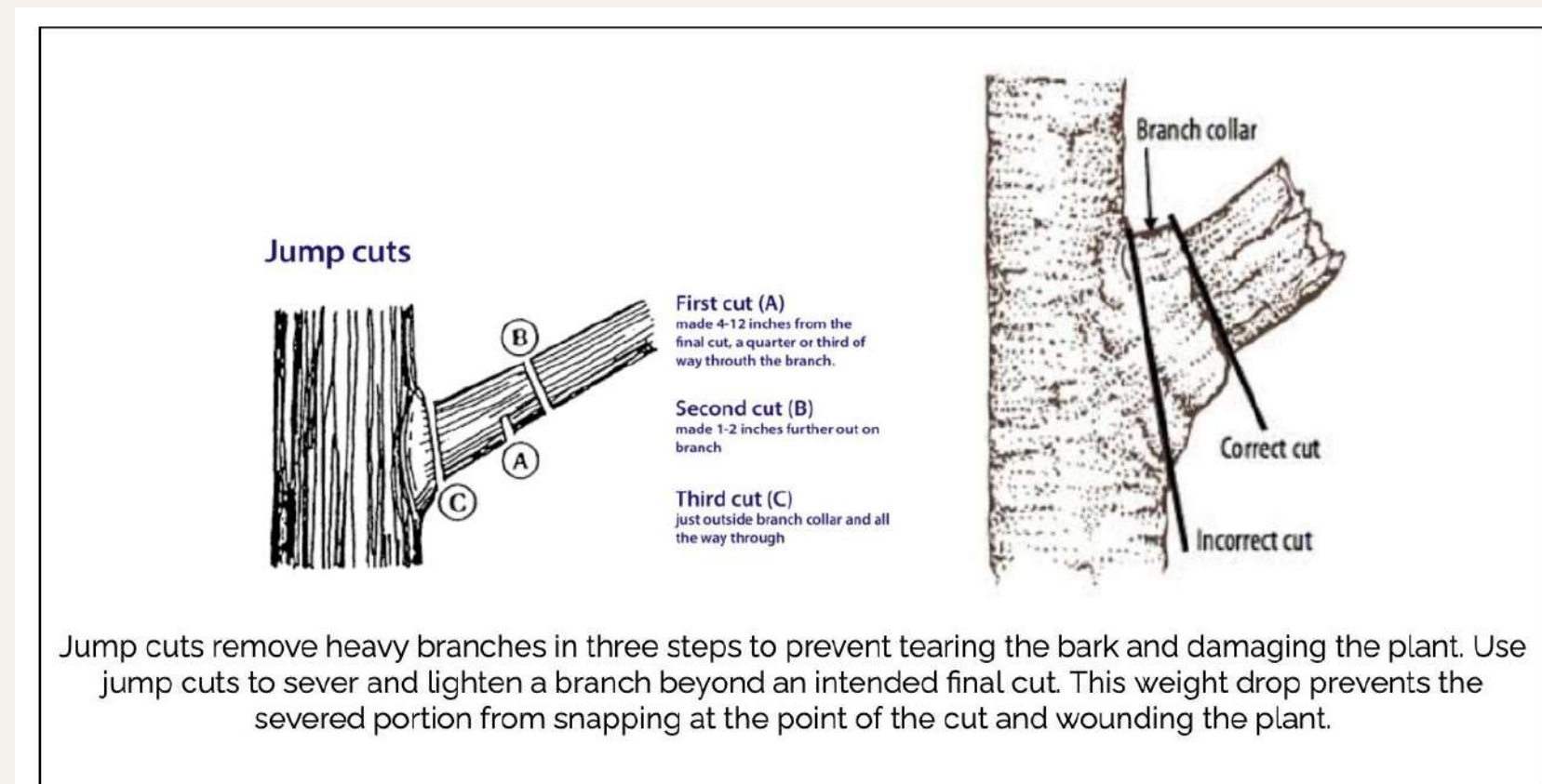
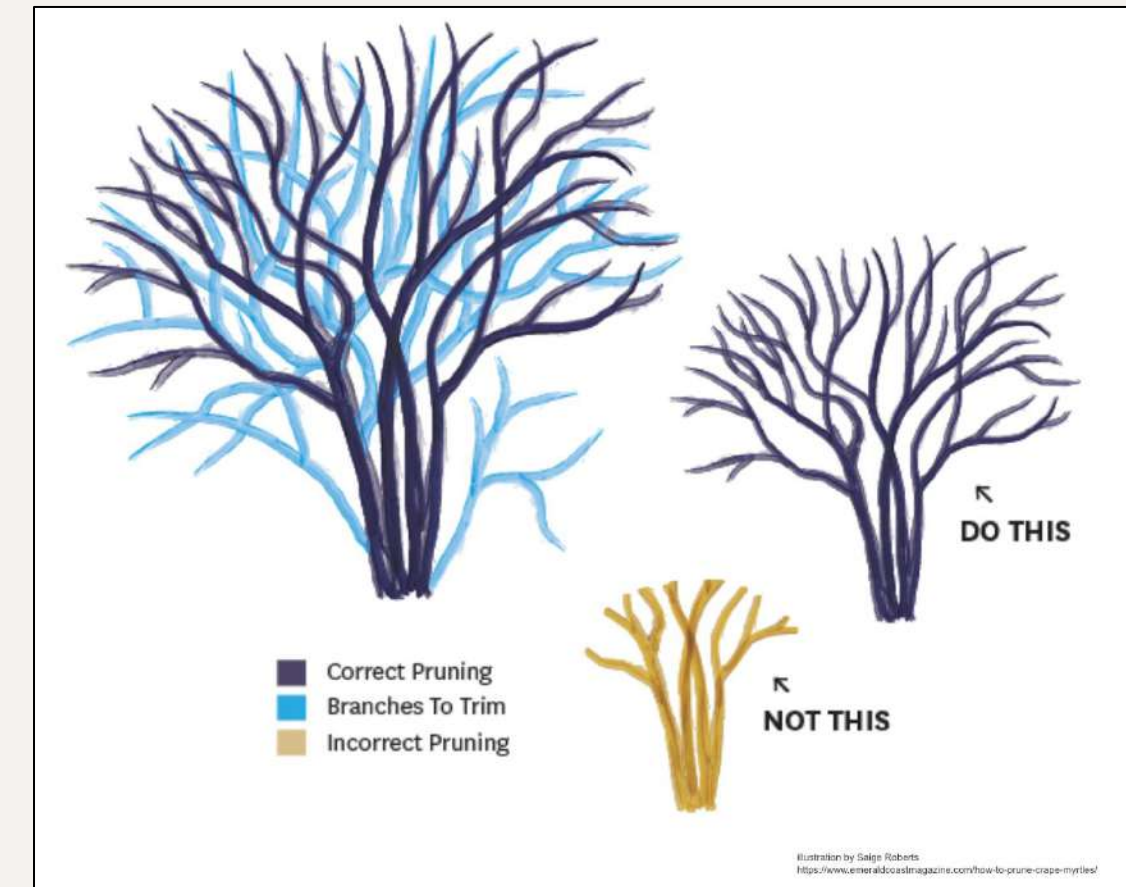
PROLONGATION

To **prolong** the life of your landscape, focus on **regular maintenance** and timely interventions. This includes **pruning**, **fertilizing**, and **watering** appropriately. By monitoring the health of your plants and addressing issues promptly, you can enhance their longevity and overall vitality.

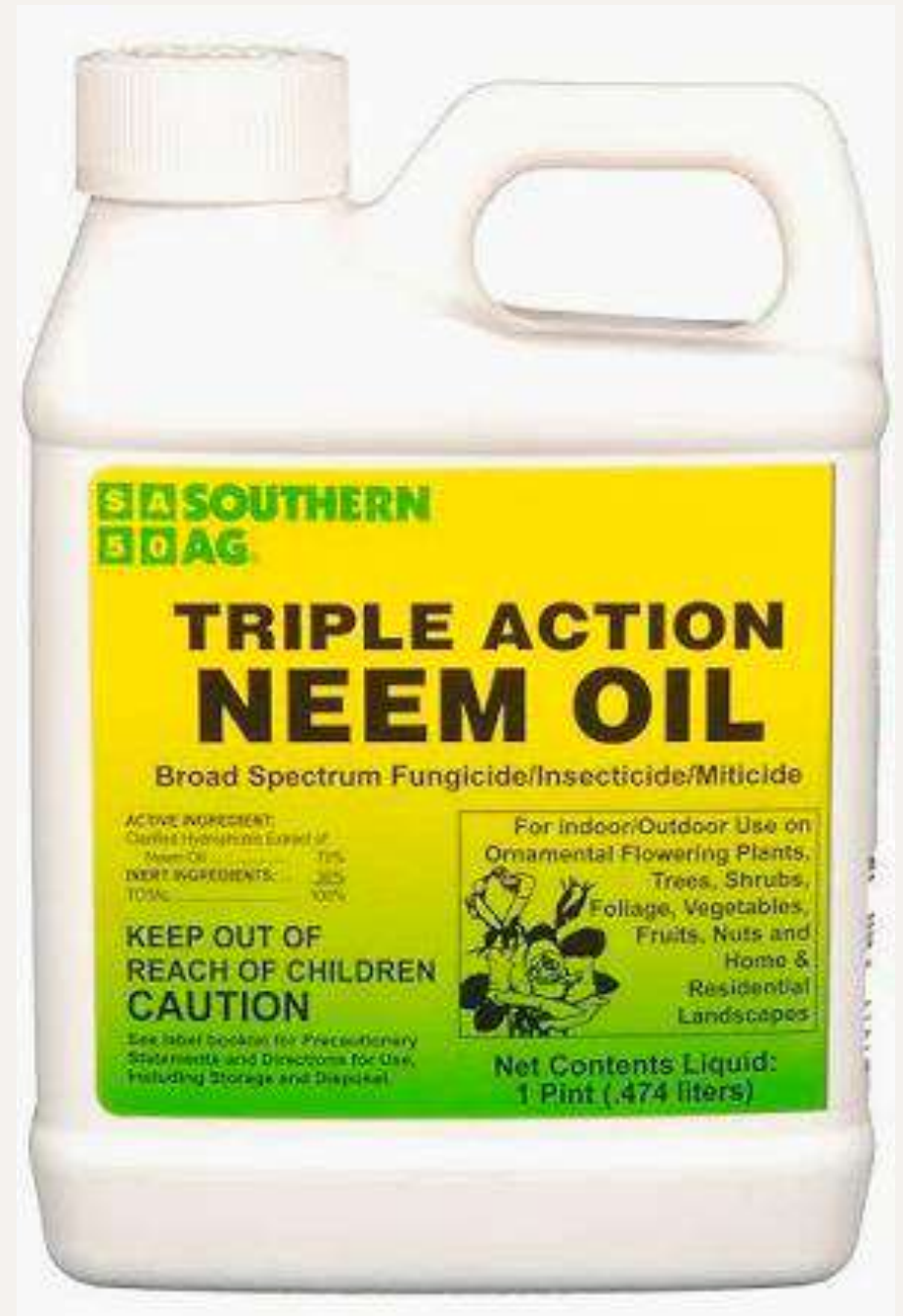
PROLONGING YOUR LANDSCAPE:

Tree Maintenance & Trimming

- This month, fertilize trees with $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of slow-release fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter. Spread the fertilizer evenly from the trunk past the tree's drip line.
- Control insects and diseases.
- Prune Crape Myrtles and avoid "Crape Murder"
- Prune your trees to remove dead wood and for corrective pruning and shaping. Lift canopies on trees next to the street and in your yard. Low-hanging tree branches in your yard can shade your turf, and vehicles can hit and damage low-hanging branches on street trees.
- Never prune more than 20% of the tree canopy.
- When removing branches, make a **jump cut** before making the final cut at the **branch collar**.
- **Oak trees should only be pruned from mid-July to February 14th
- You can hire an arborist, but make sure they are reliable and that you discuss a plan with them.



PRODUCTS WE RECOMMEND FOR TREE CARE:



PRESERVATION

Effective **preservation** of landscapes involves protecting them from **pests**, **diseases**, and environmental stressors. Implementing **sustainable practices** such as organic treatments can help ensure your landscape remains healthy and beautiful.



PRESERVING YOUR LANDSCAPE: *PEST CONTROL*

Most people do not consider controlling insects, mites, and diseases in their plants during winter. But now is an excellent time to reduce those overwintering pests and diseases for next spring and summer.

- Clean up leaves and other debris from your yard
- Be aware of stacked firewood in your yard that attracts pests
- **NEEM OIL** is an excellent organic control for overwintering insects, mites, and some diseases.
- Spray thoroughly to treat all your trees, shrubs, ground cover, and perennials.
- Spray several days before an expected rain event and when temperatures exceed freezing.
- Apply at the rates given on the label instructions.
- It is safe to use on fruits and vegetables until the day of harvest.

This preventative treatment will reduce insect and disease problems during the spring and summer.



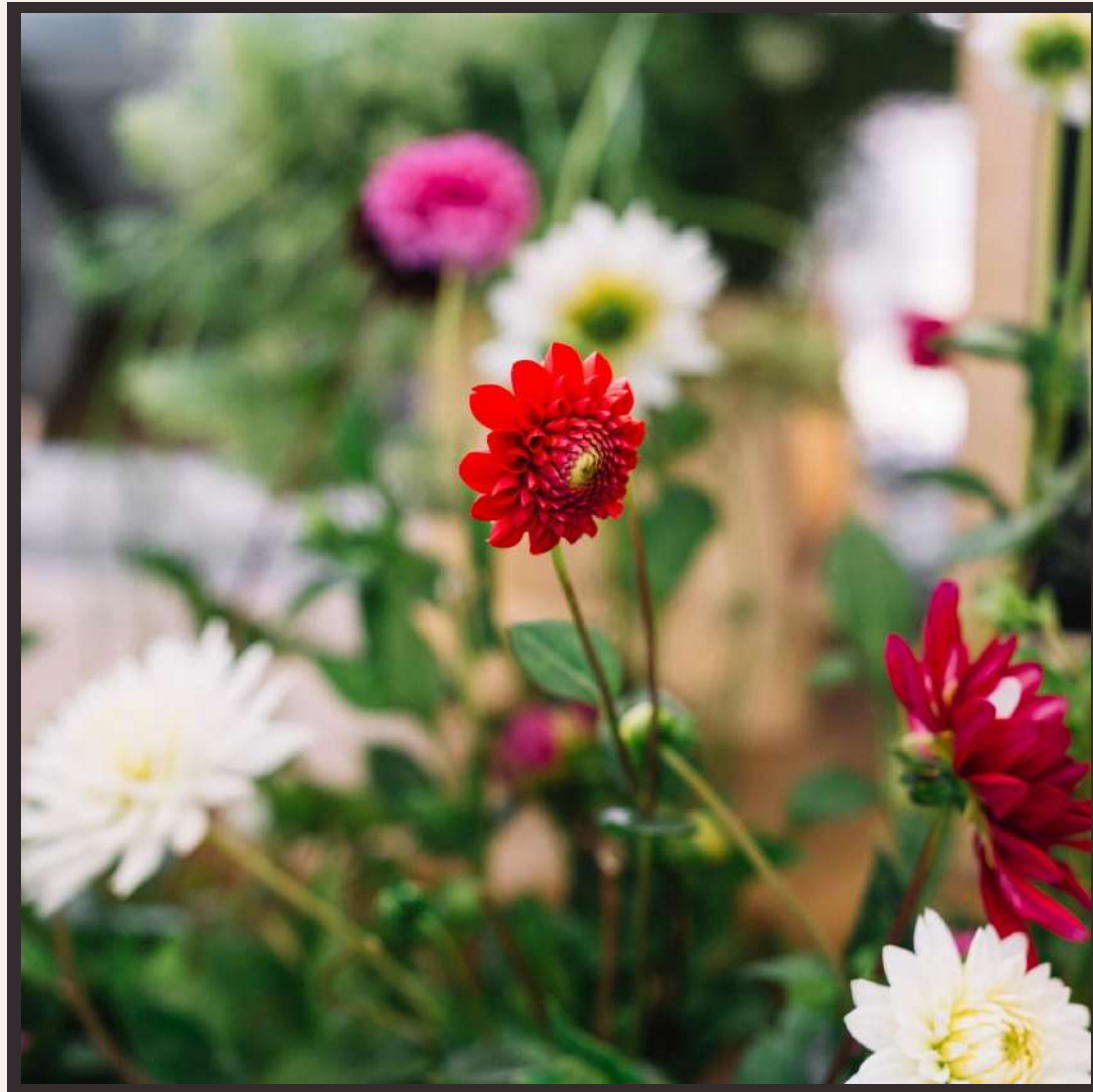
Common Challenges:

Navigating the Challenges of Shaded Areas in Lawns

- Lifting and thinning tree canopies will help the sunshine pass-through
 - Shaded areas might benefit from laying decomposed granite or Tejas Black rock, especially in side yards and smaller areas
 - Shaded beds: Consider xeriscaping and use shade-tolerant plant material, including perennials and color
 - Overseeding with shade-tolerant turf seed such as Texas Bluegrass
 - Monitor watering to shaded areas so that they do not get overwatered without sunlight to help dry the area
-

Questions and Answers

SPRING IS COMING!!



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