

# THE BUGGETTE



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## Bare in Mind by Josh Bare

### Saying Goodbye to the Sugar Maples

I recently had to cut down two giant old maple trees in our front yard. We've lived in this house in Norcross for 17 years. There are historic homes all around us, but our house was built in 1975. I imagine these trees were planted around that same time. They were very tall – maybe 50 or 60 feet. When we first moved in, each one had a branch spread about that same width – 60 feet. For years we had enjoyed the beautiful yellow and red hues that these trees showed off in the fall.

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## The Arbor-Nomics Satisfaction Guarantee

Our highly skilled Certified Landscape Specialists, and the quality products we use, get results. Happy yards all over the Atlanta area – and their gnomes – are the proof. So we can confidently guarantee that, when you sign up for one of our programs and follow our maintenance and watering recommendations, you'll have a healthier, more attractive yard.

If you aren't pleased with the outcome of the service we provide, we will re-evaluate and re-treat as necessary, at no additional cost to you. If you still aren't satisfied, we will gladly refund the cost of your last treatment.

**Dick Bare, CEO, and Doug Cash, VP of Operations**

## Help Your Trees & Shrubs Survive Winter

The ornamental trees and shrubs you enjoy in the warmer seasons still need care when the cold season strikes. The three most important things you can do to protect them from the stresses of winter are:

- ▶ Continue to water them until the ground freezes.
- ▶ Add mulch to protect roots from the cold.
- ▶ Fertilize in the fall to keep them well fed through winter.

**Application #6 of our Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum programs took care of winter feeding.** Just a single dose of our slow-release fertilizer nourishes trees and shrubs all winter long. By reacting to soil temperature, this special formulation releases nutrients when the root systems will be able to use them.

The result? Healthy trees and shrubs that produce lush, vibrant growth in the spring.

**On our Silver or Silver Plus program?** Call us to arrange for fall fertilization as an add-on service, and you too can enjoy lusher, healthier trees and shrubs come spring.





## Weeds in Fescue?

We know that some of our customers are seeing weeds in their Fescue grass. Between September and December we will spray weeds on an as-needed basis. Everyone with Fescue grass will receive weed control as part of Application 1, which is applied during January and February.

## Take Advantage of Our Prepay Special

Don't forget to take advantage of our prepay special.

**Save 5%** on your 2019 service when you prepay by December 31, 2018. You should receive your pre-pay letter in the mail by the end of November.



## Nine Great Spots to See Fall Foliage Close to Atlanta

Leaf peepers rejoice! The Georgia Department of Natural Resources offers an online tool called Leaf Watch that shows you where and when you can enjoy the brilliant colors of autumn. (You'll find it at <https://gastateparks.org/LeafWatch/>.) Use it to plan a getaway to another part of the country or a destination closer to home.

In Georgia's mountain parks, October is typically when colors peak, but gorgeous fall scenery can be enjoyed from September through much of November. Here is a look at some top picks for fall color that include several Georgia state parks, a scenic tour of foliage by train, and a spot in North Carolina.

### Black Rock Mountain State Park – Clayton

At an altitude of 3,640 feet, Black Rock Mountain offers sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains from roadside overlooks and the summit visitor center.

### Blowing Rock, N.C.

Known as the "Crown of the Blue Ridge," the town of Blowing Rock offers gorgeous, sweeping vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This area is full of attractions and overlooks.

### Blue Ridge Scenic Railway

There is no better way to see the leaves changing than the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway, which makes a 26-mile round-trip winding along the Toccoa River in vintage climate-controlled and open-air rail cars. The relaxing ride starts at the historic depot in downtown Blue Ridge, then stops for a two-hour layover in the quaint sister towns of McCaysville, Ga., and Copperhill, Tenn.

### Cloudland Canyon State Park – Near Chattanooga

One of Georgia's most beautiful parks offers easy-to-reach rim overlooks and challenging hiking trails. A favorite hike takes you down a long, steep staircase to the bottom of the canyon, where you'll find two waterfalls.

### F. D. Roosevelt State Park – Pine Mountain

Many people are surprised to find hardwood forests and rolling mountains south of Atlanta. The 6.7-mile Wolf Den Loop is a favorite section of the longer Pine Mountain Trail. For a touch of history, drive to Dowdell's Knob to see a life-size bronze sculpture of President F. D. Roosevelt and great views of the forested valley.

### Fort Mountain State Park – Chatsworth

This park is best known for a mysterious rock wall along the mountaintop, plus a variety of trails. For the easiest walk, take the 1.2-mile loop around the park's pretty green lake. For a challenging, all-day hike, choose the 8-mile Gahuti Trail.

### Red Top Mountain State Park – Lake Allatoona

Just 40 minutes north of Atlanta you'll find a variety of trails offering nice fall colors. The easy, flat 4-mile Iron Hill Loop is open to bikes and foot traffic, offering great views of the lake and forest.

### Sweetwater Creek State Park – Lithia Springs

Just west of Atlanta you'll find 9 miles of hiking trails, a beautiful creek and a small lake. For an easy walk, take the popular 1-mile Red Trail, which follows the creek to the ruins of an old mill. For more of a workout, continue past the mill to the Blue Trail, where you'll climb steep bluffs for outstanding creek views. Another way to enjoy the myriad of oranges, reds and golds in the crisp autumn air is to stay in a yurt.

### Unicoi State Park – Helen

Avoid Oktoberfest crowds in Helen by hiking a pretty 3-mile trail that leads from the park into town. You can enjoy lunch and window shopping before hiking back to the trailhead.

Source: <https://www.ajc.com/travel/great-spots-see-fall-foliage-close-atlanta/1EK5XoWtV3lraqB2Hman/>



# November Care

Application 6 for all program levels.

Please note: There are times when we may need to modify the treatments we apply due to weather conditions.

## LAWN TREATMENTS

### Weed Control

**All Programs.** For warm-season grasses, we applied a pre-emergent to prevent winter weeds and a treatment to get rid of broadleaf weeds. If two weeks pass and you still see broadleaf weeds, please call or email the office to let us know. (Cool-season grasses, such as Fescue, are not treated for weeds in November and December; treatment will resume with the first application in the new year.)

### Fertilization

**All Programs.** Fescue lawns received a granular fertilizer to feed them through the growing season. If your Fescue has also been overseeded, our fertilizer will enhance new seed growth.

### Aeration & Overseeding

**Platinum.** We aerated and overseeded your lawn in September and October. During the month of November, make sure to care for your new grass by watering and mowing regularly.

**Silver, Silver Plus, Gold, Gold Plus.** If you're on one of these programs and have Fescue, call us for a quote on your fall aeration and overseeding.

## ORNAMENTAL TREE & SHRUB TREATMENTS

**Gold, Gold Plus & Platinum.** We fertilized to promote root growth and feed trees and shrubs through winter and beyond, so they'll thrive in the spring.

### What You Need to Do Until Our Next Visit

- **Keep watering.** During fall, lawns still need about an inch of water each week. What they don't get from rain you'll need to supply by watering. Trees and shrubs should receive a thorough watering from rain or irrigation once each month. When the ground is wet about two to three inches down, your trees and shrubs have enough water.
- **Mow Fescue for Best Appearance.** Fescue lawns should be mowed every five to six days, and no more than one-third of the grass blade should be removed at each cutting.
- **Trim shrubs regularly.** It helps them grow better.
- **Remove leaves from your lawn.** Leaf buildup can harm your turf and make the treatments we apply less effective. To avoid damaging grass, we recommend using a leaf blower rather than a rake.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call Customer Service, Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm at 770.447.6037. If you call after hours, leave a message and we'll return your call the next business day.



## Helpful Contact Information

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What kind of music did the Pilgrims like?

Plymouth Rock.



What's the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner?

The turKEY.

Source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/holidayjokes/thanksgivingjokes.html>



I would blow the leaves off the yard and the driveway and make piles for the kids to jump into. Did you know that experts have estimated that a mature tree could have as many as 200,000 leaves?

**Sugar maples do better in well-drained soils and struggle in severe drought conditions, so the Atlanta climate can be hard on them.**

While these two trees were in full sun, they had been

topped at some point when they were young. At about eight feet off the ground they had branched out and formed weak crotches. Over the years both trees had lost key branches here and there. My dad recommended I take them down as soon as we moved in, but they were such a big presence in front of the house and had such beautiful foliage I couldn't bring myself to do it. I even had a neighbor lady lobbying for their removal on account of how scraggly they had started looking.

Anyways, during one of the heavy rainstorms earlier this summer, we lost a major part of one of the trees. The other one had some severe dieback on its second-to-last branch. I started to get concerned about safety, so I called Barry at Arbor-Nomics Tree about cutting them down. To keep the costs low, I asked him to just lay the trees down on the ground. I had constructed a large bed under the trees early on, so there wasn't any grass near them to damage.

Once Barry and his team took down the trees, I cut them into manageable pieces with my trusty seven-year-old Stihl MS250 chainsaw. One benefit of living within the city limits is the landscape debris removal service. The whole family pitched in to stack limbs by the street to be hauled away. **Maple wood weighs in at 56 pounds per cubic foot green** – it was a good workout for sure! (A cubic foot of water weighs 62.5 pounds.)

I don't have a great fireplace, so I was wondering what to do with all the wood. I ended up stacking it by the street with a "Free" sign on the pile. It was fun

coming home from work and checking to see if anyone had come by to help themselves. I also posted it on the Nextdoor page and Craigslist. I met a number of folks who needed wood and helped them load

the pieces. One guy heated his house all winter with free wood scavenged off Craigslist. From what I could research online, **a cord of maple wood would heat a 2,500-square-foot house for 12 days.** Pretty soon all the wood was gone!



My neighbor recommended a stump grinder guy, who arrived one evening with a four-wheeled machine on a trailer. While we ate dinner, the kids watched out the window as the machine gnawed away at the stumps. I went out to visit with him halfway through while he was taking a moment to recover from the heat. I noticed he was sort of protecting something between himself and the truck – I think he might have been enjoying a refreshment a little stronger than water. He did a great job, though! I was interested to learn that **some trees can consume more than 50 gallons of water on a hot day if it's available.** There doesn't seem to be much research on the amount beer a tree could drink, but breweries in Minneapolis launched a campaign in 2014 offering free beer to residents for watering newly planted city trees.

After the stumps were ground down, I collected the chips and dumped them in the woods. I planned to fill in the area with fescue, and it wouldn't do that well in soil with wood chips mixed in. Big roots still radiated out from where the stumps had been. I dug them up the best I could and piled them by the street. I even broke out the trusty corded Dewalt Sawzall to chop through some of them.

When the last traces of the maples were cleaned up and gone, it left quite a void between us and the street. I was determined that the yard should have at least one large tree. I used to sell wholesale plant material,

so I buzzed my previous boss, Dennis Simeone with Green Trade Nursery in Jasper. He hooked me up with a wholesale tree grower in Ball Ground. I headed out one morning with dad's pickup truck and heavy-duty steel equipment trailer. When I arrived, I made friends with the yard cat while the guys loaded up a gorgeous Nuttall oak tree. **Nuttalls are in the red oak family and are growing in popularity. They have pretty decent fall foliage and a nice pyramidal form.** And they grow fast – the tree I bought had a caliper of over five inches.



When I got back to the house, I offloaded the tree with our shop skid steer. It almost tipped over, and its operating capacity is 2,400 pounds! The kids were watching as we carefully placed the tree in the big hole we had prepared for it. After a few adjustments, we filled in the dirt around it and watered it.

It has been a couple of weeks now, and the tree is doing great. A few leaves here and there turned brown just from wind damage on the trip back to my house. My tree wind tarp from my nursery days was a little on the small side. I've got the ground all tilled up where the fescue will be expanded, and I laid down some fresh grass seed. I've got my fingers crossed that the rains come in so I won't have to set up a sprinkler right away. The front yard has come a long way this year, but it will be a while until the space where the two maples stood sentry is filled.