

# BUGGETTE



## Protect Your Ornamental Trees, Shrubs & Sprinkler System from Winter

Even during winter dormancy, ornamental trees and shrubs need TLC to stay healthy and rebound in the spring. Here are the three most important things you need to do.

**Refresh mulch.** Ice, and even rapid temperature changes that don't result in freezing, can damage the upper part of a root system. A 3-inch layer of mulch protects these vulnerable roots, ensuring they can transport nutrients to the rest of the plant.

**Water until freezing temps set in.** Ornamental trees and shrubs benefit from winter watering so long as temperatures are consistently above freezing. But if you use an in-ground sprinkler system, prevent pipes from bursting by draining the system before it freezes. For more info, visit our blog at [Arbor-Nomics.com](http://Arbor-Nomics.com) and search "winterize your sprinkler system".

**Fertilize now.** Gold and Platinum customers: We already applied our slow-release fertilizer. **Silver customers: You can get tree and shrub fertilization as an add-on.** Just one treatment keeps trees and shrubs well-fed and boosts their resistance to winter stress so they'll emerge healthy and beautiful come spring. **Request your free estimate soon.**

## Happy Holidays, Everyone!

However you celebrate, all of us at Arbor-Nomics wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. We hope it's filled with peace, love, and joy.

### Prepay for 2024 & Save

Save 5% on your 2024 service when you prepay in full by check. Or pay by credit card and save 2%. **Offer ends on 12/31/2023.** Call 770.447.6037 or email us at [offers@arbor-nomics.com](mailto:offers@arbor-nomics.com) to take advantage of this offer.



## Helpful Contact Information

### ARBOR-NOMICS TURF, INC.

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### REGIONAL MANAGERS

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### CUSTOMER RELATIONS

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## Application #8 for All Programs

**Please note:** Occasionally, we may need to modify the content or timing of treatments due to weather.

### Lawn Treatments

#### Weed Control

Bermuda, Fescue, and Zoysia lawns received a post-emergent broadleaf weed control.

#### Fertilization

Bermuda, Fescue, and Zoysia lawns received a micronutrient package to support root health and growth during the winter months.

#### Disease Control

Contact us right away if you see discolored patches in your lawn, which could be a sign of a fungal disease. We'll make a FREE service call to check it out and provide an estimate for any needed treatment.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Treatments

#### Pest Control

*(if included in your program)*

We applied a horticultural oil to smother any insect eggs left to overwinter.

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

#### Keep Lawns Free of Leaves

Leaf buildup makes the treatments we apply less effective. It can also smother lawns and promote diseases.

#### Raise Your Mower Blade

For warm-season grasses, such as Bermuda and Zoysia, increase the height of your mower blade about a half-inch. Keeping grass a little longer this time of year allows it to store up more nutrients to get through winter and flourish in the spring. It's safe to mow shortly after we've treated your lawn; just be sure the grass is dry to the touch.

#### Water Wisely

It's okay to water your lawn in December if it seems dry. But be sure to drain and shut down your irrigation system if freezing temps are predicted. No one wants burst pipes!

**Questions about our service or your yard?** Contact Customer Service at 770.447.6037, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm. After hours, leave a message, and we'll return your call the next business day.





# Bare in Mind

by Josh Bare

As 2023 enters its homestretch, life gets so busy, and I find myself a bit reflective. This combination made me decide to recycle a “Bare in Mind” column from years ago that included short stories that illustrated Arbor-Nomics’ core values. I’d like to share three of those stories related to ownership, accountability, and knowledge. Hope you enjoy them.

**Ownership** – After parking in front of a customer’s home and getting out of the truck to pull out the spray hose, David Gay noticed a little water running down the street. Not thinking much of it, he got to work treating the yard. Upon returning to the truck, David saw the water was spreading.

He figured there must be some sort of leak in the yard, and seeing the chance to be a hero for his customer, he decided to investigate. But what he found dashed any hope of heroism. Apparently, he parked on a mislaid water line, causing it to rupture.



David got the water department to shut the water off at the curb, and at that point, he could have washed his hands of the problem. After all,

it wasn’t his fault the water line was mislaid. Instead, he called a plumber, and the line was patched before the customer got home. David knew that taking ownership of the problem was the right thing to do.

**Accountability** – Our customers hold us accountable to apply products responsibly. That often entails techs clearing away things like toys, so they don’t get sprayed. And sometimes a tech will find a toy irresistible.



That was the case when Ricky Queen came upon a plastic sword lying in a customer’s backyard. Before moving it out of the spray zone, Ricky brandished it like a knight worthy of Camelot, boldly hacking and slashing away at invisible attackers. King Arthur may not have been there to witness his energetic swordsmanship, but the customers were. When Ricky looked toward the back door, he saw them doubled over with laughter. We aim to please!



**Knowledge** – My dad is extremely knowledgeable about horticulture, and he took every opportunity to teach me when I was growing up. So he must have been shaking his head when I dug up a little white pine from the woods behind our house and made it my personal Christmas tree. I planted the tree in a bucket, brought it into my room, and then delighted in decorating it.

When the season was over, I replanted the tree in the woods. Dad proclaimed there was no way it would survive. With all the stress I put it through, it was doomed to live out its final days as a snack for pine borers.

Some 30 years later, the pine was still going strong. The thing is, my dad was absolutely right about the science: The tree shouldn’t have made it. I’m going to chalk it up to a Christmas miracle.

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***Please let me know any thoughts you might have about this article. I can be reached at 678.313.4568 or Josh@Arbor-Nomics.com.***