



## Pearls of [Water-Saving] Wisdom <sup>(1)</sup> ...

Highlights from 2011 Water Returns Presentation:  
“Preparing your Landscape for Winter”

### Prune Trees

- Remove broken, dead & damaged branches
- Before heavy snow (mid October)
- Final cut should be just outside branch collar

### Prune Shrubs

- Spring Flowering (bloom on one-year old wood) = do not prune in fall
- Summer Flower (bloom on new wood from current season) = prune in fall or spring
- Choose best pruning method:
  - ❖ Thinning – selective pruning to allow more light to interior of plant or improve shape
  - ❖ Rejuvenation – cut one-third of old canes to ground & remove one-third of height of remaining canes
  - ❖ Shearing – prune shrubs to particular shape
  - ❖ Don't cut shrubs that provide winter interest, i.e. Blue Mist Spirea

### Prune Perennials

- Cut foliage to ground
- Mulch over perennial
- Don't cut back perennials that provide winter interest, i.e. grasses

### Fertilize & Aerate

- Early September to Mid October
- Apply 1 – 2 pounds of Nitrogen per 1000 square feet

### Leave Grass a Little Longer

### Drain Backflow & Blowout Irrigation System

### Cleanup

- Remove dead/dying plant material
- Recycle non-infected material
- Dispose of all material that contains pests or diseases

### Winter Water

- Only when temperatures are above 40 degrees & soil is not frozen
- Early in day so water has time to reach roots before freezing at night

Note (1): These “pearls” are not all inclusive or indisputable and some of the steps merit specialized skill or knowledge. Contact Water Returns ([info@waterreturns.org](mailto:info@waterreturns.org)) for more information, classes and resources, and/or consult with Colorado State University Extension (<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/>) or other nursery, landscape, irrigation or horticultural professionals for more details.

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