# Autumn Landscape Preparation

We have begun the fall transition at our house. The grill will be drug around from the back patio to the garage, the pool filter removed and the wood pile under the patio awning replenished. In the landscapes of our customers we have begun pruning shrubs, hedges and trees. Most fall pruning will lower, thin, tighten and tuck plants to bed for the long sleep of winter. There are however some shrubs and trees that by form or structure do not do well under the weight of heavy snow. I watch the predictions closely for our coming winter forecast and this could be the year where our precipitation falls in saturated snow and freezing rain. Cold fluffy snow is typically not an issue but precipitation right around that freezing mark can be a mixed bag of heavy slop. I already mentioned my concern with Mountain Ash trees, but Arborvitae hedges are easily impacted as well. Folks always ask me if they should tie them up. I prefer to shear arbs and not tie them. If you leave for the winter though, it might be best to tie them. Otherwise, bumping or knocking snow off is part of the “must do” items for all arb hedge owners. The other tree that gets overlooked is the Lace Leaf Japanese Maple. Its thick crown of crossing branches makes them very susceptible to snow load damage. These are very expensive trees whose value increases substantially as they grow. It takes very little investment to properly thin them out. They look very bonsai when finished and less likely to break. (Check out the before and after pix of a monster Lace Leaf we recently pruned on our website under the stump heading.

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors as they peak and as always for further questions, quotes and consultations, call to book and appointment!