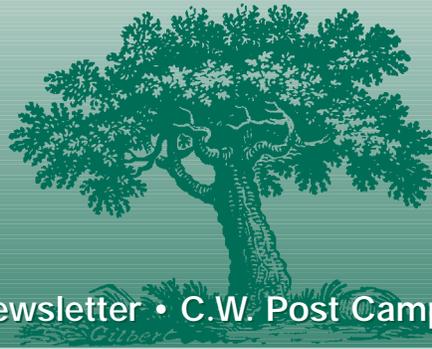


# Tree



# Talk

Community Arboretum Newsletter • C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University

## The Wonders of the Winter Landscape

Creating a garden that is appealing in the winter months takes great enthusiasm, patience, and vision. Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening, and even the most expert gardener can learn from unrestrained beauty around them. Unlike other seasons of the year, winter is not a time to anticipate continuous waves of bright, bold colors in the landscape. Rather, it presents an opportunity for the curious

gardener to discover the finer details of the landscape.

Although the garden may appear to be resting in the winter, it can burst to life with splendor from choice plants highlighted by exquisite winter sunlight.

Interesting plant characteristics such as the growth habit, ornamental fruit and bark become most evident in winter. Conifers and broadleaf evergreens seem to take command of the landscape with their attractive foliage and striking texture. Collectively, trees and shrubs with winter appeal will transform the garden into a winter wonderland.



The winter environment enhances the beauty of trees and shrubs. A fresh blanket of snow or a thin layer of ice clinging to the bare branches of a tree will make plants glisten in the winter sun. In addition to a canvas of snow and ice, the natural, soft, glowing light of winter can also accentuate the beauty of trees and shrubs. But even a cloudy, winter's day can provide a hauntingly beautiful and mysterious feeling to the garden.

Winter is nature's poetry, sprinkling its magic throughout the landscape like an artist's paintbrush swirling across a canvas. The winter garden can stir many emotions within us all, but none is more potent than the solace it brings knowing the garden is alive with horticultural riches. Winter soothes our souls and allows us as gardeners to reach for new beginnings and anticipate all that the garden can be. Gardening is an endless and wonderful journey that makes the world around us a better place.



**A** fresh blanket of snow or a thin layer of ice clinging to the bare branches of a tree will make plants glisten in the winter sun.

~ Vincent A. Simeone,  
Horticulturist and Arboretum Coordinator  
Author, "Wonders of the Winter Landscape"  
(2005 Ball Publishing)

# Ask the Gardener

## Subject: Premature Leaf Drop

**Q:** Last August I found that the leaves on my trees prematurely turned brown and started to fall before the traditional start of the fall season. Other trees in my landscape and in the neighborhood look fine. I water about every third day, so I do not think too little water is the problem. What is causing this to happen?

**A:** Not enough water and the heat remain the No. 1 problems for trees. Leaves drop or turn brown because of heat and the inability to absorb enough water, even with some irrigation.

For tree lovers – and for people who are in no hurry to see summer end – it’s distressing to see trees losing their leaves in early September. Leaves aren’t supposed to fall until well into October, right?

Most years, that’s true. But hot, dry weather can lead some trees to shed their leaves well ahead of schedule. Premature leaf drop is the last thing a tree will do before it actually dies from drought. It is an act of self-preservation.

This past summer, while we were enjoying beautiful weather, a drought was developing during August and September, which affected the trees on Long Island. A lot of deciduous trees suffered from ‘premature leaf drop’ in the early part of September. People were contacting us to voice their concern about trees on their private properties, which were shedding significant numbers of leaves.

Trees shed early when their roots cannot take up enough moisture to maintain their leaves. Maple, Tulip, Plane and Katsura trees are especially susceptible. Oak trees, on the other hand, have a tougher leaf, which can

preserve moisture better. Their deep roots also allow more access to moisture. As a result, Oak trees rarely display premature leaf drop.

Premature leaf drop can be prevented with deep watering of the rootzone. Trees that have already experienced it will benefit from mulching to help improve the rootzone’s capability to retain moisture and modify soil temperature.

~ Case Joesse,  
Grounds Manager, C.W. Post Campus



Photo courtesy of Hillwood Museum & Gardens, Washington D.C.

### From the Archives: Rose Arbor Circa 1923

The C.W. Post Campus is the former estate of Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the Post Cereal fortune. Mrs. Post (center) is pictured with daughters Eleanor (left) and Adelaide at the steps of the brick rose arbor. The rose arbor, part of the C.W. Post Community arboretum trail, is located next to the Winnick House Administration building where brick walls, walkways and benches remain today as a testament to a gentler time. To read more about the C.W. Post Campus’ extraordinary history, visit the Web site [www.liu.edu/history](http://www.liu.edu/history).



## Tree Facts

- Trees keep our air supply fresh by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.
- In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven up to 8,700 miles.
- Trees provide shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars.
- Trees cut down noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.
- Tree roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
- Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife.

## New Additions on Campus

To complement the renovations of the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, the surrounding area was landscaped during the summer and fall. New trees and shrubs include:

- *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory', Red Maple 'October Glory'
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata', Hornbeam 'Fastigiata'
- *Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan', Japanese Double Flowering Cherry
- *Betula nigra* 'Heritage', Heritage Birch
- *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood', Redleaf Japanese Maple
- *Picea abies* 'Pendula', Weeping Norway Spruce
- *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Gracilis', Hinoki Cypress
- *Viburnum rhytidophyllum*, Leather Leaf Viburnum



A beautiful walkway on the west side of Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on the C.W. Post Campus.



A Colorado Blue Spruce was planted in October across from the B. Davis Schwartz Memorial Library. It stands 6' tall and will grow approximately 1' each year until it reaches 30' to 40' at maturity. Groundskeepers Joe Izzo (left) and David Godfrey plant the Blue Spruce.

**"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st and ends on December 31."**

- Marie Huston

## Tree Talk

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## Plan Your Visit to the C.W. Post Community Arboretum

The C.W. Post Community Arboretum is a magnificent 20-acre tract of native trees and nature trails within the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. It features 114 trees (71 species), some very rare that are labeled with horticultural and origin information. Self-guided walking tours begin at Hillwood Commons and last 30 to 45 minutes. To obtain your free map, go to the Hillwood Commons Information Desk or call (516) 299-3500 or e-mail neighbor@liu.edu.



C.W. POST CAMPUS

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### *Celebrate Trees!*

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## Brookville Neighbors Learn to Groom Their Garden

Local residents enjoyed an autumn tour and bulb-planting workshop at the C.W. Post Community Arboretum in October. Led by C.W. Post Grounds Manager Case Joosse and Arboretum Coordinator Vincent Simeone, the guests learned the finer points of planting a winter garden. (From left) Lucy Roth, Nancy Copperman, Kevin Kennedy, Slawik Bilofsky, Case Joosse, Vincent Simeone, Anita Pandolfi, Louise & John Danetra, Virginia & Jim Ficarra.

