



Winter/Spring 2024



The Picture Perfect Times

A Newsletter from
Picture Perfect Landscape / Christmas Decor

Celebrating 32 years of service



Cleaner spaces let you
and your family enjoy
more time outdoors

Contact our office for more
info kim@perfectscapes.com
Investing in your home and
planning for your future
longterm activities is both
rewarding and a smart idea.



2024 has finally arrived. NOTE FROM OUR VENDORS: Even though pricing continues to increase for fuel, labor, products and supplies all across the board we will continue to offer our existing clients special incentives for renewing early to lock in current pricing before we increase prices March 15th, 2024. So if you are thinking of getting it done this year, the sooner you can get your order in the better. Now that most of us have returned to some type of hybrid work or school model, you will want to get projects completed so you can enjoy your outdoors. Did you put off that project last year due to a busy schedule or too much rain Perhaps it's something as simple as cleaning up your planting beds and updating the look of your dated or overgrown landscape with some newer lower maintenance shrubs. Ask us about a free assesment/quote.

Hopefully spring is more normal since we have had the snow and ice storms this year. New England—so unpredictable and never 2 years the same. 2020-2023 were pretty mild and not much snow but lots of rain last year which means drainage problems and lots of growth on landscapes. Once we get through the short month of February and the ground is snow free, Spring is usually right around the corner. By focusing on warmer sunnier days ahead, it's time to start working on your landscape budget and plans. Every year during that first warm week in April, we get swamped with calls from new clients that have finally emerged from their winter cocoons to take a look at their yards. We are continuing to anticipate busier spring requests.

Our goal has always been to take care of our existing clients first. That's why we send out our spring renewal packages early to offer an incentive to clients that sign up for maintenance service in February to allow us to prepare, reserve materials and schedule crews by zone. Spring cleanups are our first type of work that we do and gets the ball rolling before other landscape construction projects. You not only get a better value/price, but also save on the amount of labor/mulch needed by doing this before the shrubs start to leaf out and your perennials emerge. It's much easier for crews to work in beds where flowers/bulbs have not come up yet. Temperatures are much cooler, and weeds are still minimal and you can check us off your SPRING To Do List! Now is the time to **Start planning your outdoor projects and to do goals for spring and summer 2024 by contacting us today!**



Patios

Cleanup an area and entertain family & friends!



Walks & Plantings

Simple Easy to maintain for busy homeowners



Spring Maintenance



Pruning & Winter Damage: It is very important to make sure you do not ignore your plantings. That means if they are getting overgrown you have to give your plants a pruning sometime in late winter or early spring when it is most beneficial. If your plants and especially shrubs and ornamental trees become leggy, they are more prone to breakage during storms. Some plants also can not recover as quickly as they mature and may have to be replaced if size and space become limited. We've seen this in the past with certain evergreens. 2020 and 2022 summer storm was pretty memorable with all the tree and landscape damage due to drought conditions. And then last year was the third wettest year on record and lots of extra growth. So if you're from New England you know Mother Nature likes to keep us landscapers on our toes. Once the weather warms up, unless we have typical spring rains remember to give your plantings and lawns a deep watering at least once a week or you risk stressing out your already established trees and shrubs. Stress makes plants and lawns more prone to disease or insect damage. **Gator Watering bags** can help assist with watering trees providing slow watering down deep to the roots. **Spring Mulch:** Dress-up planting beds with fresh mulch. Mulch helps retain moisture keeping plant roots cool, creates a barrier for weeds, and gives your landscape a finished look. We sell and deliver our dark brown, shredded, pine/hemlock bark mulch for your landscaping needs. Also remember to use weed spray like Roundup, Natria or Avenger to kill existing weeds and then Preen weed preventer sprinkled on top of mulch, stone or sweep it into the joints of your walkway, drive or cobblestone to assist with ongoing weed control every couple of months or hire a professional. Visit our website for more info on landscape and lawn maintenance tips and Call us today for a quote on our weeding, pruning & mulching service. It's time to spruce up your landscaping for the spring and summer so you can come home and enjoy your landscaping investment!



Weed, Prune Edge Beds & Mulch



curb appeal

Planning a party for graduation? Spruce up your landscape & impress your friends & family by visiting our website for new ideas on updating your yard. A little change can go a long way.

Create useful areas in your backyard that you can enjoy with your family and friends. *Cut down on lawn areas and weeds with mulch or river stone for cleaner spaces...*



Clean Space for Outdoor Dining, Entertaining, or School/Work Space

Outdoor Patios Areas: Post Covid folks continue to put a lot of thought & planning into their home additions and landscape renovations be it a new or existing home. Cleaner spaces that include the use of partially enclosed gazebos with either canopies or pergolas as a roof for shading and adding privacy. Sometimes an oversized patio umbrella and an outdoor fan is all you need to get some cool shade. Create an outdoor living space with a view of your backyard for the warmer seasons by installing an open gazebo/canopy on a patio with side curtains for privacy and protection from the elements and insects. You can even create different areas on a concrete paver patio for sitting & relaxing with a good book, grilling, enjoying a fire, children's area with picnic table, entertaining with friends around a bar...the ideas are endless. We work with you to plan and budget an outdoor patio designed for your lifestyle and specific needs keeping in mind Smart maintenance and plantings. Add an Outdoor Space for your entertaining or just relaxing after a long day and it will give many years of enjoyment for both family and friends. **Call us today for a free consultation & quote and plan now in the winter so you can be ahead of the game and get started sooner by taking advantage of our more flexible spring schedule before warm temperatures arrive and the sooner you can enjoy your space-explore your possibilities today!**

Extend your family's quality time outdoors this summer with an inviting fire...

One of today's hottest trends in outdoor entertaining is incorporating fireplaces, outdoor fire pits, and grills or chimneys in your backyard so you can enjoy a cozy fire during spring, summer, and fall. For decades homeowners out West and down South, have extending their quality time outdoors with family and friends by installing heating elements that are functional as well as enjoyable. Instead of the pool or Jacuzzi that doesn't quite get used as often when company comes over, they create an area with benches and chairs with an inviting fire to gather around safely. Enjoy a delicious meal outdoors and then have a place to converse or to enjoy romantically with that special someone as the evenings start to get cooler but you still want to linger outdoors on a summer night.

Customize a backyard living area for cleaner usable space and your family's lifestyle...



Fire Pit Kits



We are a Unilock® Authorized Contractor



Unilock fire pit area and sitting wall for entertaining.



Above is a more informal area to relax and enjoy. Created with cobblestone edging, crushed stone and mulch.

www.perfectscapes.com

Design Build Maintain

Retaining Walls



Concrete Walls offer grading and retaining solutions with style and durability; can also serve as additional seating around fire pit areas



Concrete Stairs & Walks



New or replacement concrete stairs and stepping stones for sloped areas



Did you put off that project last year due to a busy schedule? Over the years walkways and patio areas will usually need some cleaning up due to dirt and debris from trees like pollen and sap or moss/weeds. Pavers, steps, walls and cobblestone may need resetting or walkway edging can pop up over time especially with Connecticut's fluctuating temperatures or due to drainage issues once lawns or beds mature. Weather (rain and snow) sure can do damage in a short period of time also causing drainage and safety issues that only worsen over time if not addressed properly. Perhaps Mother Nature's critters are to blame. Insects such as ants, chipmunks and moles/voles are the top 3 home-wreckers and need to be addressed each season. Perhaps you would like to create your own backyard oasis off your deck or a patio with either an easy to care for sitting area with cooling water feature or relaxation garden. Incorporate a fire pit area to enjoy with friends and family during the evenings especially during the cooler evenings and still stay socially distanced. Extend **your** living space outdoors this year to enjoy the beautiful New England weather & Stay safe at home.

Custom Patios

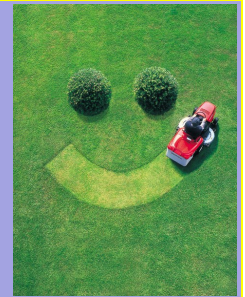


Some Spring Tips to Help Your Landscape in Spring

Kim's Corner



***SHARPEN Garden Tools** Having the right sharp tool for the job makes all the difference just like a chef doesn't like dull knives when chopping food.
***Check Irrigation Systems**-don't wait until the summer heat to repair irrigation heads, adjust watering schedules from last year if needed
***Pruning** not only keeps shrubs and trees looking good, it also eliminates any unnecessary foliage that takes more watering; plants like to conserve water and energy during the warm summer. Plus leggy plants and tree branches are more prone to damage later in the summer, fall and winter from storms and heavy winds/snows which will cause broken branches and splitting trunks similar to last summer's tree damage.



***Clean Up Winter Leaves, Debris and Weed Removal**-Just like you cleanup up your floors and do spring cleaning indoors, it's important to give your lawns and landscape beds (especially around your home's foundation) a good cleanup when snow is gone. Also Weeds can compete with landscape plants for water and weaken or destroy your trees and shrubs. Remove the weeds by hand or checkout our updated blog articles on weed control alternatives-

Address any problem areas that may have come about due to the rain or winter storms. Check your downspouts and clean your gutters. Any low spots in your lawn or yard not draining properly need to be taken care of to protect your home's integrity and investment. Could be simple regrading or sometimes more involved like installing a french drain or drainage system. Having an expert evaluate is the first step to finding a solution.

***Lastly Mulch Plant Roots**-Replenish organic mulches around your plants each year to improve soil, reduce moisture loss & keep roots cool during the summer months. Keep mulch away from plant trunk or main stem.

Proper plant care and watering will keep your landscape healthy and looking Picture Perfect all year long.
GARDEN WITH CHILDREN. Give them their own space in the yard for planting flowers or veggies. It will give them something to be proud of and usually tends to keep them out of your other more formal areas if they have somewhere to experiment in all their own. It's pretty simple to start off with a simple tomato plant or peas/beans or cucumbers. Ask your local garden center for advice.



Time for a New Look?

Before

Lower Maintenance Designed Plantings...

Your foundation Plantings frame your home:
 Whether it's a new home or one you've lived in for decades, it may be time to update your landscaping. Plants and trees can become mature and overgrown and will detract from the look you want for your home. Perhaps it's time to evaluate your landscape and remove some unwanted plants. Renewal pruning may be an option along with some updated color and texture for easier to care for trees, shrubs and perennials.



Design

EVERGREENS: Privacy plantings offer screening from neighbors activities and vice versa...



After

Add curb appeal with color and textures including cobblestone edging with mulch

Services We Offer... Complete Design Install Maintain Service (1,2, and 5 year phased plans available)

◆ Walkways Patios and Outdoor Areas-Landscape Plantings Plant bed spring and summer maintenance including pruning, edging, and mulching; also privacy screening trees and lower maintenance plantings ◆ Retaining Walls, Playscape or Shed Area and Water Features: Relaxing Pondless Waterfalls and Stream Beds and Fire Pits

We have the vision, the right people, the experience, & the most productive tools and processes to achieve one goal. To be able to solve your landscape problem and give you the best service available!

2024 HOT TOPICS: additional solutions for home landscape renovations for clients choosing to "age in place", landscape regrading and planting ideas to address drainage issues and landscape solutions due to all the rain.

New pool installed recently?

River stone and low maintenance plants



Concrete Paver Patio with Darker Border



Plants selected to enhance your poolside experience from May to September. Easy to maintain when closed up in the fall. We specialize in summer colors and textures including evergreen screens designed for your family activities and privacy.



Starting in October...This will be our 25th Season of Decorating: **WE DO IT ALL FOR YOU!**

Our Full Service Program offers our busy clients both convenience and peace of mind. Design, professional installation, maintenance, and removal storage of our commercial lights and greenery for your home or business.

Christmas in August Specials-

If interested in pre-booking and paying deposits for next season to receive extra incentives and priority scheduling please contact Kim directly for more info.

Existing clients Incentives for renewals before August 31st



- Roof and Ground Lighting with LED C9 bulbs
- Windows, Trees, and Shrubs with LED minilights
- Commercial quality garland, wreaths with or without lights
- Bows and Specialty Decor such as Ornaments and Signs
- Outdoor Digital Timer and electrical setup

CHRISTMAS DECOR SERVICES by Picture Perfect Landscape