

## Spring Clean up

By: Melinda Sperl

Spring is around the corner and I just can't wait. I'm afraid that we might have lost a few plants again this year to freeze but try to hold off trimming plants in case we get a late season freeze as the dead leaves can help protect from even more freeze damage. If you do trim now, make sure you put out fresh mulch to help protect your plants, especially for lilies.

The month of February is a good time to apply a fresh layer of mulch and apply pre-emergent herbicide. If all danger of frost is passed, trim your roses and fertilize any blooming plants to give them energy for their spring show. Azaleas are setting blooms now so hold off shaping them until after the bloom season. Don't murder your crepe as they should be trimmed as other plants and not made into ugly sticks.

February is way too early to fertilize grass but is a good time for core aeration with a good compost application.

Trees should only be trimmed when the weather is cold to deter insects so if you haven't trimmed yet, you might want to wait until next winter. They also do not need to be trimmed every year as they are slow to recover from damage.