### **Protect Your Yard Against Winter Weather**

A harsh winter can be tough on plants. But did you know that a mild winter with a few bad cold snaps can be even more damaging? The temperature fluctuations don't allow plants to acclimate, and they essentially experience shock. Our treatments promote year-round vigor and resilience, but your role is also critical.

- Protecting your lawn
  Fill in any depressions to prevent water from pooling and freezing in those areas.
  - Let grass grow about a half-inch longer and leave grass clippings on the lawn so that they recycle back into the soil.

- Protecting your ornamental trees & shrubsProvide a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch to insulate roots and retain moisture in the soil. Be sure to leave at least a 3-inch gap between the mulch and the trunks of trees and shrubs.
  - Cover less hardy plants, like azaleas and hollies, with burlap or plant protection bags when temperatures drop below freezing.

These simple actions will go a long way towards helping your plants brave whatever Mother Nature brings their way.

### It's Time to Schedule **Spring Aeration**

Our dense clay soil becomes extra hard and compacted after winter frosts, making it difficult for warm-season grass to thrive. Aeration changes that by loosening up the soil so that:

- Air, water, fertilizer and other nutrients can reach the root system, where they're needed
- Roots grow stronger and deeper
- Grass becomes more resistant to heat and drought and also grows in thicker

We do aerations for warm-season grass in April and May. Call 770.447.6037 to schedule your service.

## January/February Care **Application #1**

Please note: There are times when we may need to modify treatments or schedules due to weather.

#### **Lawn Treatments**

#### **Weed Control**

We applied a pre-emergent to prevent certain grassy weeds, like crabgrass, from germinating, and a post-emergent that, over the next two weeks, will kill off existing broadleaf weeds.

#### **Fertilization**

Fescue lawns received Arbor-Nomics' Special Blend fertilizer to nourish this cool-season grass. Bermuda and Zovsia lawns received potassium to support the root systems of these warm-season grasses and to feed them as they emerge from dormancy in the spring.

#### Fungus Control (available as an add-on service)

Zoysia lawns can be treated to control a common fungal disease that targets them, earning the name Zoysia patch.

#### **Ornamental Tree & Shrub Treatments**

### Pest Control (included in our Gold Program)

We applied dormant oil to prevent damage from insects that overwinter in these plants.

#### What You Need To Do **Until Our Next Visit**

#### **Prevent Heavy Leaf Litter**

Thick leaf buildup can promote lawn diseases by trapping excessive moisture, depriving grass of air and light, and reducing the efficacy of our treatments.

#### Raise the Mower Deck a Half-Inch for Bermuda & Zoysia.

This lets warm-season grass store more nutrients for winter feeding. Leaving the grass clippings to recycle back into the soil provides another nutritional boost. (You can mow after we treat as soon as wet applications are dry.)

Questions about our service or your yard? Call Customer Service at 770.447.6037, Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm. After hours, leave a message and we'll get back to you the next business day. Or email us at info@arbor-nomics.com.



## **Helpful Contact** Information

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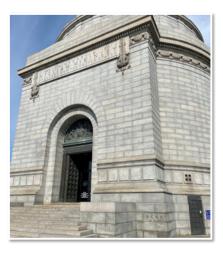


# **Bare in Mind**

### by Josh Bare

Every year my dad returns to his hometown, Youngstown, Ohio, for the Canfield Fair, and last summer my family and I decided to tag along. It's the largest county fair in the state and the third largest in the country, so there's always a lot to take in. Dad likes to spend several days there, so while he was soaking up all things fair-related, we decided to take a little side trip.

Our first stop was the President McKinley Library and Memorial. Did you know he is one of the four presidents who were assassinated? He was shot while visiting the 1901 World's Fair in Buffalo, New York, and died of gangrene a week later. The memorial, including his tomb, overlooks the city of Canton and is quite impressive.



McKinley Monument

From there we went to the Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron. It was the home of F.A. Seiberling, the co-founder of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Wow – what an estate!

The name, Stan Hywet, doesn't refer to the architect or to any person at all. It is the Old English term for a stone quarry, which is what the site was at one time. By 1911, when the Seiberling home was built, the site had come a long way from its humble beginnings.

The original estate covered 1,500 acres, and the house is 64,500 square feet! As you might expect, the interior is full of lavish appointments. But what's striking is it doesn't have the feel of pure self-indulgence.



The Bare kids in the Japanese Garden



Stan Hywet Hall

Instead, it feels like a home that a family filled with life. The Seiberlings had seven children and 21 grandchildren, and you can easily imagine them playing plenty of games of tag and hide-and-seek on the grounds.

Over the front door, there's a Latin inscription that means "Not for Us Alone." The Seiberlings frequently opened their home to the community for various events. They also shared their prosperity by building a hospital, improving transportation, and preserving community green spaces. In keeping with that legacy, in 1957, the house

was donated to a family non-profit and opened to the public for tours and local gatherings.

The gardens alone – all exquisitely landscaped – make the estate destination-worthy for anyone in the area. Among the highlights is a cutting garden, dedicated entirely to long-stemmed flowers for the beautiful arrangements that make the interior of the home even lovelier. There's a Japanese garden, perfect for contemplative meandering; a grape arbor, abundant with fruit for the sampling; and so much more, including, of course, a playground for the kids.



Stan Hywet Cutting Garden



You might not expect Akron, once "the rubber capital of the world," to be a place of grandeur and graciousness, but that's exactly what you'll find at Stan Hywet, which, without a doubt, lives up to the motto "Not for Us Alone."

Please let me know any thoughts you might have about this article. I can be reached at 678.313.4568 or Josh@Arbor-Nomics.com.