Seasonal Care for Trees & Shrubs in Northern U.S. Climates

Spring
- Buds swell
- Leaves emerge
- Water is essential in summer & drought
- Maintain a ring of mulch (2"-4" deep) around the tree but not against the trunk
- For some plants, pruning or removal during this time requires special care to prevent disease transmission
- Apply low rates of nitrogen if necessary
- Mulch or plastic guards may be used to prevent damage from mowers or other lawn equipment
- Animal and snow/ice damage
- Insect and disease problems
- PREFERRED

Summer
- Leaves full size
- Reduces winter damage
- Apply if needed. Use hardware cloth, 3" from the trunk
- Animal and snow/ice damage
- Depends on situation

Autumn
- Leaves turn
- Leaves drop
- Apply if needed. Use hardware cloth, 3" from the trunk
- Animal and snow/ice damage
- Not advised

Winter
- Soil frozen
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