

Landscape Maintenance Schedule

January

- During winter drought periods, water newly planted trees and shrubs, especially evergreens. Tree bags work well when temps are above freezing. Double check moisture in raised planters.
- Check on supplies of materials such as fertilizer, herbicide, garden equipment, etc.
- Check that gardening tools and equipment are in good repair—sharpen and repair mowers, edgers, sprayers, garden hoses, hand tools, saws, etc.
- Inspect your irrigation system and replace worn or broken parts.

February

- Prepare mowers for use. Clean air filters, new fuel, oil & filter change, perhaps tune-up, etc.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs as needed.
- Finish pruning shade trees, summer flowering shrubs, and hedges. Spring blooming shrubs such as lilac and forsythia may be pruned immediately after flowering.
- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or early March.
- Pre-emergent crabgrass control herbicide can still be applied to cool season turfgrass.

March

- Cultivate flower beds to destroy winter weeds.
- Apply shredded bark mulch to tree/shrub beds and ground leaf compost to flower beds to control weeds and reduce need for watering.
- Divide and replant summer and fall blooming perennials.

April

- Begin planting native perennials and grasses.
- Replace mulch which has been washed out with spring rains. Smooth mulch layer if it has been disturbed.
- Prune out any winter-damaged branches or plants that have not begun to grow by late April.

May

- Sweep or blow clean all walkways and curbs on a weekly basis.
- Nutsedge plants become visible during this month. Apply Sedge-Hammer this month. Sedge Hammer is the only product that works on nutsedge.
- Plant perennials and grasses in early May.
- Water new transplants and newly planted shrubs and trees unless rainfall is abundant.

June

- Vigorous, unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened on new trees. Watch for forks in the main trunk and remove the least desirable leader as soon as it is noticed.
- Cultivate and mulch. Mulching will reduce about 70 percent of the summer yard maintenance.
- Continue to water new plantings deeply as needed. Apply at least one inch of water each time.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root if propagated in a moist shady spot.

July

- Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought. Continue watering young plantings.
- Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.

August

- Water all key planting areas thoroughly unless rainfall has been adequate.
- Check plants for signs of water stress, nutrient deficiency or disease.
- Divide and replant spring blooming perennials.
- Hedges and shrubs can be pruned, if necessary, about mid-August.
- Young trees and shrubs may be fertilized again.

September

- Check plants for signs of water stress, nutrient deficiency or disease.

October

- Container-grown shade trees and pines are most successfully planted in the fall. Broadleaf evergreens or bare-root plants are best planted in the spring.
- Scout property for invasive bush honeysuckle. Leaves are bright yellow with red berries in Oct.
- Remove leaves and litter from parking lots and turf areas or mow with mulching mower.
- Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.

November

- Remove leaves from cool-season grasses or mow with a mulching mower.
- Remove autumn leaves from tree, shrub, and flower beds.

- Now is a good time for a soil test to correct nutrient deficiencies before winter.
- Dispose of pine cones from diseased pines.
- November 15 to March 15 is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs. Remove conflicting and crowded branches, dead limbs, double-leaders and unsightly branches.
- Drain gasoline from power equipment or use fuel stabilizer before winter storage. Drain and store water hoses. Clean up all tools.
- Remove diseased plant material from the landscape to reduce disease problems next year.

December

- Review the year's schedule and make plans for next year's improvements.
- Prune any tree branches in parking lots and sidewalks that interfere with public safety.
- Continue with leaf removal if needed.
- Continue pruning trees and shrubs.