

Landscape Continuing Maintenance

Maintenance Checklist

You can ease your ongoing maintenance burden and improve your landscape significantly by planning ahead and breaking up the work so that you do not become overburdened.

Use this guide as a checklist to help with your planning. Some of the tasks on this checklist may not apply to your property, and for the sake of brevity we have not included many details about each item.

Keeping a journal or record of the work you have done from year to year will help with planning for the following year.

If you observe and record problem areas such as plants in the shade, or plants not getting enough water, these will be good notes to refer to in the fall when determining what needs to be done before the next year.



January – April Checklist



JANUARY

- Clean up any debris from winter storms, including gutters

FEBRUARY

- Dormant pruning to rejuvenate plants and shape. Prune trees as needed to raise undercarriage
- Cut down ornamental grasses when they become messy and unkempt looking

APRIL

- Complete spring clean up - remove all leaves, sticks and debris from the landscape
- Clean catch basins, window wells and other drainage in the landscape
- Fertilize flowering plants while blooming and after bloom. Fertilize all other spring bulbs late in bloom cycle.
- Prepare beds for season by reestablishing bed edges and light cultivation in open bed areas and re-apply mulch if desired

- Perennials can be planted, divided and transplanted when the soil is not overly wet
- Fertilize ornamental planting beds with slow release fertilizer
- Fertilize ground cover beds
- Turn on irrigation systems after April 15th, check to make sure all zones/head are operating properly
- Check hardscapes for damage from winter weather, schedule/make repairs as necessary

NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS

May – August Checklist



MAY

- Fertilize perennials when plants are no larger than 2- 3” in height (and again in 8 weeks)
- Apply second fertilizer application around Memorial Day
- Begin weeding the beds as needed
- Shear privet, boxwood and other hedging plants as needed
- Begin watering the landscape before temperatures rise

JUNE

- Fertilize summer annuals
- Mulch flower and ornamental beds when the soil becomes drier
- Begin staking, pinching back and dead heading perennials as needed
- Begin maintenance pruning ornamental plants as needed to retain size, shape and structure

JULY

- Water perennial and ornamental beds periodically with long, slow deep waterings to soak the water deep into the soil
- Prune (and/or deadhead) azaleas and rhododendrons after blooming, prior to July 4th

AUGUST

- Shear/prune plants as needed
- Continue watering perennial and ornamental beds as needed

NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS

September – December Checklist



SEPTEMBER

- Shear/prune plants for last time of the season by September 15th at the latest

OCTOBER

- Fall clean up - remove all leaf, plant debris, particularly diseased plant parts from the garden and dispose of them off site
- Install mulch around tender perennials and plants that need extra insulation during the winter
- Water landscape plants well until the landscape is frozen

- Divide perennials, reduce unwanted plants in beds
- Touch up bed edges for clean look through the winter
- Blow out irrigation systems, drain pipes
- Fertilize trees and shrubs using balanced fertilizer
- Turf off water to exterior sources by October 15th
- Drain and winterize water features (as necessary) by October 15th
- Clean out ponds removing leaves and debris

NOVEMBER

- Apply the fifth and last fertilizer application around the middle of the month or before Thanksgiving; after air temperatures are below 50 degrees F
- Cut down perennial beds after several killing frosts, leave plants with winter interest
- Clean up any remaining leaves in the landscape
- Clean catch basins, window wells and other drainage in the landscape
- Drain and put away hoses and other gardening equipment for the winter. Oil hand tools to keep lubricated and prevent rust

DECEMBER

- Remove fall annual flowers after decline
- Clean up remaining leaves in the landscape

NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS
