

Landscape Continuing Maintenance Checklist

Regular landscape maintenance helps keep your yard healthy, attractive, and easier to manage throughout the year. Keeping a simple journal of completed tasks and noting problem areas—such as poor drainage, shaded areas, or plants that need more water—can help you plan for future seasons.

January

- ☐ Clean up debris from winter storms.
- ☐ Remove leaves and debris from gutters.

Notes: _____

February

- ☐ Prune dormant trees and shrubs to improve shape and encourage healthy growth.
- ☐ Prune trees to raise lower branches as needed.
- ☐ Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth begins.

Notes: _____

April

- ☐ Complete spring landscape cleanup.
- ☐ Remove leaves, sticks, and other debris.
- ☐ Clean catch basins, window wells, and drainage areas.
- ☐ Fertilize flowering plants during and after blooming.
- ☐ Fertilize spring bulbs near the end of their bloom cycle.
- ☐ Refresh planting beds by redefining edges and lightly cultivating the soil.
- ☐ Apply fresh mulch if needed.
- ☐ Plant, divide, or transplant perennials when soil conditions are suitable.

- ☐ Fertilize ornamental planting beds with a slow-release fertilizer.
- ☐ Fertilize ground covers.
- ☐ Turn on irrigation systems after April 15 and inspect all sprinkler zones for proper operation.
- ☐ Inspect patios, walkways, retaining walls, and other hardscape features for winter damage.

Notes: _____

May

- ☐ Fertilize perennials when plants are 2–3 inches tall.
- ☐ Apply a second fertilizer application around Memorial Day.
- ☐ Weed planting beds as needed.
- ☐ Trim hedges such as privet and boxwood.
- ☐ Begin regular watering before hot weather arrives.

Notes: _____

June

- ☐ Fertilize summer annual flowers.
- ☐ Mulch flower and ornamental beds as the soil begins to dry.
- ☐ Stake plants and remove spent flowers (deadhead) as needed.
- ☐ Lightly prune ornamental plants to maintain their size and shape.

Notes: _____

July

- ☐ Deep-water perennial and ornamental beds during dry weather.
- ☐ Prune and deadhead azaleas and rhododendrons after flowering (before July 4 if possible).

Notes: _____



August

- ☐ Continue pruning and shaping plants as needed.
- ☐ Continue deep watering during hot weather.

Notes: _____



September

- ☐ Complete the final pruning of the season by mid-September.

Notes: _____



October

- ☐ Complete fall landscape cleanup.
- ☐ Remove leaves and plant debris, especially diseased material.
- ☐ Apply mulch around tender perennials for winter protection.
- ☐ Water landscape plants thoroughly until the ground freezes.
- ☐ Divide overcrowded perennials.
- ☐ Remove unwanted plants.
- ☐ Refresh bed edges.
- ☐ Blow out irrigation systems and drain pipes.
- ☐ Fertilize trees and shrubs with a balanced fertilizer.
- ☐ Turn off exterior water supplies by October 15.
- ☐ Drain and winterize water features, if applicable.
- ☐ Clean leaves and debris from ponds.

Notes: _____



November

- ☐ Apply the final fertilizer application before Thanksgiving (after temperatures consistently fall below 50°F).
- ☐ Cut back perennial beds after hard frosts, leaving plants with winter interest if desired.

- ☐ Remove remaining leaves.
- ☐ Clean catch basins, window wells, and drainage areas.
- ☐ Drain and store hoses.
- ☐ Clean and oil garden tools before winter storage.

Notes: _____

December

- ☐ Remove spent annual flowers.
- ☐ Complete any remaining leaf cleanup.
- ☐ Inspect the landscape for winter storm preparation.

Notes: _____

Annual Landscape Journal

Use this space to record observations that will help with next year's planning.

Plants that struggled: _____

Areas needing more water: _____

Areas with poor drainage: _____

Repairs or improvements for next year: _____

Tip: Breaking landscape maintenance into small monthly tasks makes caring for your yard more manageable and helps prevent costly problems later.