Nevada County Habitat for Humanity®

Together, we build a better future.

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.

For additional information contact the Habitat Homeowner Support Team
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