Landscape Continuing Maintenance Maintenance Checklist

Landscape maintenance is arduous enough without having to drag it out all year. However, 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.

Even if you've only hired Lawn Lad to install your new landscape and you intend to do the majority of the maintenance yourself, you may call on Lawn Lad to assist you in your maintenance work.

We can provide you with consultation on how to manage certain aspects of your landscape as well provide the labor, material, equipment and knowledge to complete a particular task. Lawn Lad can work with you on an ongoing, continuous basis or on as-needed, on-call basis.

The Ohio State University Extension Service also provides excellent information that can help to answer your more detailed questions about your landscape. The Web site is an in-depth resource, providing answers to many of your questions. You can find the Web site at http://webgarden.osu.edu.



CATEGORIES:



LC: Lawn care includes fertilizing, lime and pest control applications. Mowing, aerating and de-thatching (verti-cutting) the grass.



PB: Planted Beds require weeding, spade edging, mulching, pruning for landscape plants, perennial and annual plant maintenance, water, fertilizing



TS: Trees and shrubs require watering, fertilizing, pest control applications and pruning



HS: Hard-scapes include service to irrigation systems, water features, landscape lighting, deck, fence and arbor structures. It also includes patio maintenance (e.g. power washing, sweeping new sand into joints, sealing) as well tuck pointing or mortar repair.



0: Other Maintenance items might include cleaning out catch basins, window wells, and maintaining garden tools and equipment.

January – April Checklist











JANUARY	APRIL	Apply pre-emergent to beds
Clean up any debris from winter storms	Dethatch/verti-cut lawn if turf is dry	Perennials can be planted, divided and transplanted when the soil is not overly wet
	Complete spring clean up - remove all leaves, sticks and debris from the landscape	Plant spring pansies for color
FEBRUARY Dormant pruning to rejuvenate plants and shape. Prune trees as needed to raise undercarriage	Clean catch basins, window wells and other drainage in the landscape	Fertilize ornamental planting beds with slow release fertilizer
Apply lime to the lawn if needed, based on soil test	Apply 1st round turf fertilizer with crabgrass pre- emergent before forsythia finishes blooming	Fertilize ground cover beds Begin monitoring landscape for pests - watch the
Apply dormant oil to shrubs to reduce potential insect damage during spring and summer months	Spot seed thin or bare lawn areas. Do not use crab- grass pre-emergent if there is a lot of seeding to be	Growing Degree Days Phenological chart for tips on what pests to look for and when
Cut down ornamental grasses when they become messy and unkempt looking	done. Or you can top-dress lawn areas to be seeded if pre-emergent has been applied. Water seed to supplement rain fall.	Reset automatic timers on outdoor lighting when Daylight Savings Time begins on the first Sunday of April
Finalize plans for spring landscaping projects	Begin mowing lawn as conditions require, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass plant at a time	Turn on irrigation systems after April 15th, check to make sure all zones/head are operating properly
MARCH	Fertilize tulips while blooming and after bloom. Fertilize all other spring bulbs late in bloom cycle.	Check outdoor lighting and replace bulbs as necessary, check fixtures for damage
If weather breaks - begin spring clean up chores	Prepare beds for season by reestablishing bed edges and light cultivation in open bed areas and top dress if desired	Check hardscapes for damage from winter weather, schedule/make repairs as necessary
NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS		

May – August Checklist











MAY	JUNE	Water perennial and ornamental beds periodically
Continue mowing the lawn - mowing as frequently as necessary, perhaps more than once per week	Continue mowing the lawn, raise the mower height to at least 3.0" going into the drier part of the season	with long, slow deep waterings to soak the water deep into the soil
Spray selective herbicide in the lawn for weed control while temperatures are cooler and weeds are actively growing	Discontinue the use of selective herbicides on the lawn after temperatures are in the mid 80's	Prune (and/or deadhead) azaleas and rhododendrons after blooming, prior to July 4th
Aerate the lawn and over-seed as necessary	Fertilize summer annuals with Miracle Grow or Peter's Plant Food	AUGUST
Fertilize perennials when plants are no larger than 2-3" in height (and again in 8 weeks)	Mulch flower and ornamental beds when the soil becomes drier	Continue mowing the lawn as needed; do not mow the lawn if there is a drought
Apply second fertilizer application around Memorial Day	 Begin staking, pinching back and dead heading perennials as needed 	Shear/prune plants as needed
Prepare annual flower beds and install summer annuals after the third week of May, before June 15th	Begin maintenance pruning ornamental plants as needed to retain size, shape and structure	Continue watering perennial and ornamental beds as needed
Begin weeding the beds as needed	Begin planning fall landscape projects	Dethatch/verti-cut lawn if there is excessive thatch (over 1/2") when temperatures are below 80 degrees F
Shear privet, boxwood and other hedging plants as needed Apply a preventative season long grub control application to the lawn (e.g. Merit) around Memorial Day Begin watering the landscape before temperatures rise. It takes 1/4 as much water to keep a lawn green than to turn it green again after it goes dormant. Prepare and plant vegetable gardens Fill water features after May 1st as necessary	JULY Continue mowing the lawn, skipping scheduled mowings if the lawn is not growing or is excessively dry Apply third fertilizer application to lawn around July 4th holiday Fertilize perennials for second and final time during the season as needed/desired	Install new grass seed after the third week of August Begin thinking about and planning for next year's landscape projects

September – December Checklist











Apply fourth fertilizer application to lawn after Labor Day holiday Divide perennials, reduce unwanted plants in beds Continue to cut the grass until it stops growing (afte air temperatures are consistently below 50 degrees F Apply selective herbicides to the turf again to remove unwanted weeds Install fall annual color by mid September (remove summer annual flowers if replacing with fall color) Aerate the lawn (second time of season) and over-seed lawn as needed Shear/prune plants for last time of the season by September 15th at the latest OCTOBER Continue to cut the grass until it stops growing (afte air temperatures are consistently below 50 degrees F Top dress perennial beds with composted soil Install winter snow fences and/or winter burlap screening to protect plants from drying winds and salt damage from streets with mulch Apply the fifth and last fertilizer application around the middle of the month over-seed lawn as needed Shear/prune plants for last time of the season by September 15th at the latest Distall spring flowering bulbs by end of the month Spray anti-desiccant on plants, particularly broadleaved evergreens, that are exposed to winter winds Clean up any remaining leaves in the landscape Clean up any remaining leaves in the landscape Clean catch basins, window wells and other drainage in the landscape Turf off water to exterior sources by October 15th Get a soil sample for problem areas of the yard and send to a soil lab for analysis to check soil pH and nutrient levels	SEPTEMBER	Dig and store tender perennials, tubers and	NOVEMBER
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