

LANDSCAPE TASKS BY SEASON

(Zone 5)

WINTER

- 1) This is the best season to plan your landscape additions and revisions. If professional assistance is desired, designers have low backlogs, respond quickly, and give "off season" discounts.
- 2) Late winter is the time to prune deciduous and some evergreen shrubs (see note 1), clean up beds, apply spring fertilizer, replenish mulch, and do transplanting (depends on plant).
- 3) Hand pick bag worms or spray when active (early summer).

SPRING

- 1) Early Spring is great for installing new plants. Selection is good and quality is high, soil temperatures are ideal, and rain is usually plentiful. This is the second best season for planting most trees (see note 2) and seeding/sodding lawns. This is also, the time to apply pre-emergence crab grass barrier (Note 3).
- 2) Drain, clean, and refill water features.
- 3) Note drainage problems during the heavy rains and correct as required. Solutions involving major excavations may best be delayed until the soil is drier.
- 4) Late May - early June is the best time to prune the flowering shrubs mentioned in Note 1. If pruning is necessary on cherry or magnolia, do so lightly.
- 5) If mulch is thin, add as required to keep soil temperature cool, conserve moisture, and control weeds.
- 6) Water your landscape and lawn weekly, if necessary, to supplement rainfall, (especially if they are newly installed). Avoid watering at night - early morning is best.
- 7) If necessary apply pre-emergence crab grass control in late March or early April and a post-emergent control in early to mid June. Follow manufacturers instructions.
- 8) Carefully remove spent blooms (where practical) on rhododendrons to maximize next year's blooms.

SUMMER

- 1) This is the season for hardscape construction - water features, patios, decks, arbors, trellises, drainage, etc. Soils are dryer and therefore more workable. Rain is less frequent and less likely to stall projects.
- 2) Watch for spider mites on evergreens and control as required.
- 3) If you like, let your lawn go dormant, but continue watering your landscape plants (especially if newly installed). Plantings under building overhangs or dense tree canopies may receive very little rainfall. Check soil moisture and water as required.
- 4) Feed established lawns (if not allowed to go dormant) with a mid-season fertilizer. If required, treat lawn for grubs. Follow manufacturers instructions.

FALL

- 1) Late Summer to early Fall is the best time to seed or sod lawns.
- 2) Early Fall is the best time to transplant narrow-leaved evergreens.
- 3) Bare root, balled and burlapped, and container grown plant can be planted.
- 4) In early Fall, apply a Fall fertilizer to your lawn. In late Fall, apply a “winterizer” fertilizer and if necessary, aerate your lawn.
- 5) Continue watering evergreens (broad-leaved and narrow-leaved) until the ground freezes.
- 6) Protect broad-leaved evergreens with wraps or antidesiccants as required.
- 7) In late Fall, clean up lawn and landscape beds. Empty clay and concrete pots. Move the clay pots to a protected area where freezing and thawing will not cause spalling or breaking.

NOTES:

- 1) Avoid heavy pruning on shrubs that flower before the end of May (andromeda, azalea, cherry, forsythia, honeysuckle, lilac, mock orange, quince, rhododendron, and some spirea). Consult a pruning guide or give us a call before doing pruning on evergreens. Do not prune pine, fir, hemlock, spruce, or yew in late winter. Avoid heavy pruning on magnolia.
- 2) Most trees are best planted in Fall. Try to plant beech, birch, dogwood, hawthorn, magnolia, sweet gum, and tulip trees in Spring.
- 3) Timing is critical for, post-emergent crab grass control. Treatment is based on soil temperature.
- 4) Always follow product manufacturers' instructions.