



Landscape Maintenance Calendar *for the*

Mid-Atlantic Region

The following recommendations are general and should be used in conjunction with the text on the reverse of this calendar.

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
DECIDUOUS TREES												
Planting	*	*			*	*	*	*	*			
Transplanting	*	*			*					*		
Watering	*	*										
Fertilizing			*	*								
Pruning			*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
Insect Control	SEE TEXT ON REVERSE											
Disease Control	SEE TEXT ON REVERSE											
EVERGREENS▲▲												
Transplanting				*	*					*	*	*
Fertilizing		*	*	*								
Pruning						*	*	*				
SHRUBS												
Planting					*	*	*	*				
Transplanting	*	*										
Watering	*	*										
Fertilizing												
Pruning			*	*	*	*						
Insect Control	SEE TEXT ON REVERSE											
Disease Control	SEE TEXT ON REVERSE											
TURF AREAS												
Planting (<i>Fall planting is recommended</i>)			*	*	*							
Overseeding												
Watering							*♣	*♣	*♣			
Aeration						*	*	*	*			
Fertilizing			*	*	*							
Pest Control	SEE TEXT ON REVERSE											
Weed Control						*	*	*				*

NOTE: * Activities can be performed during these periods, however, the preferred periods are shaded.
♣ See "Watering Established Turf" section on reverse.

DECIDUOUS TREES:

PLANTING - Generally, planting deciduous trees *can be done* at any time during the growing season provided that the tree is container-grown or balled and burlapped prior to bud-break (emergence of leaves). Asterisks indicate that while trees *can be* planted during these months, plant stress increases, survivability rates are lower, plant maintenance requirements are greater, and plant stunting is likely.

TRANSPLANTING - Actual transplanting refers to the removal of a tree from the ground and should only be attempted during dormant periods prior to bud-break. While it is *possible* for trees to survive when transplanted during late spring or summer, a dormant period transplant will establish more quickly and have reduced transplant shock. Seek professional advice before attempting transplants, as some species, like Willow Oak, are best transplanted in early spring before bud-break.

WATERING - Obviously watering is more crucial in summer during periods of drought, particularly for newly planted trees. Watering is crucial during fall and winter, however, to continue root growth, and to prevent "dry freezing" during winter drought. Always check soil moisture weekly, or prior to watering, to prevent overwatering.

FERTILIZATION - While healthy trees may never require fertilization or rootfeeding, no more than 1 application of fertilizer is necessary per growing season. The best time to fertilize trees is during the fall. Fall fertilizing stimulates root growth and provides energy for the next year's growth. Consider using organic fertilizer or aerating instead of fertilizing. Never fertilize during droughts at any time of the year.

PRUNING - Optimal pruning times vary for many tree species. Check to insure that the timing of pruning will not remove flower buds for the current or next season's growth. Generally, deciduous trees will derive the most benefit from a late fall/winter or early spring before bud-break. Light trimming of broken branches or deadwood removal is acceptable year-round.

INSECT CONTROL - Properly identify the insect prior to deciding upon any control method. Examine the most effective means of control before applying any pesticide. Insect life-cycles vary greatly, and a pesticide application may be wasted if done at the improper time. Consult the local Cooperative Extension Agent or nurseryman for assistance in pest identification and control techniques.

DISEASE CONTROL - Timing of control measures can be extremely important and multiple applications may be necessary to properly control a disease. Consult your local Cooperative Extension Agent or nurseryman before attempting disease control measures.

EVERGREENS ▲▲ For instructions on watering and insect and disease control of *Evergreens*, follow the guidelines for *Shrubs* below.

TRANSPLANTING - Generally, evergreen trees transplant more successfully during early spring. Evergreen shrubs can usually be transplanted year-round, excluding periods of drought. Consult a nursery or arborist before planting or transplanting specific species.

FERTILIZING - More *is not* better! Check the specific plant nutrient requirements and application timing before applying fertilizers as evergreens, in general, have different nutrient requirements from deciduous plants. Perform soil analysis to determine if fertilizing is necessary. There are fertilizers blended specifically for evergreen species. Explore the option of using an organic means of fertilizing as an alternative to chemically formulated fertilizers. In some cases, aeration may be the most beneficial way to increased plant vigor.

PRUNING - Most evergreens benefit from an early spring pruning while some broadleaved evergreens benefit from a late fall or winter pruning. Try to prune evergreens well before fall so that new growth has time to establish or "harden off" before winter. It is also advisable to become aware of the plant's flowering cycle to avoid the inadvertent removal of bloom buds. For example, prune an evergreen magnolia after spring flowering to avoid removing the current year's bloom buds but prior to the next year's bud formation.

SHRUBS

PLANTING - If adequate moisture is provided, shrubs can generally be planted anytime during the growing season and beyond.

TRANSPLANTING - Follow the same guidelines for transplanting trees noting that summer transplants are less risky for shrubs if the proper precautions are taken. Water generously well before transplanting and prune new growth. Keep foliage shaded from direct sunlight after transplanting and use small amounts of a water soluble fertilizer to compensate for the removal of root mass and food reserves.

WATERING - Water particularly during drought by digging small seepage holes around the base of plant for increased moisture absorption.

FERTILIZING - Increased watering during summer can leach nutrients away from plants. Use a water soluble fertilizer during the growing season if necessary to correct this condition. Otherwise, use slow release fertilizer once per season in spring or fall.

PRUNING - Be aware of the plant's flowering cycle to avoid inadvertent removal of bloom buds. Some shrubs may require two prunings per season. Avoid pruning late in the growing season so that new growth will not burn from winter exposure. Avoid pruning during dry periods.

INSECT CONTROL - Monitor plants for leaf shedding or discoloration. Become familiar with pests that commonly attack certain shrubs and treat at the first sign of infestation. This will reduce plant stress and chemical usage. Get professional advice for chronic infestations.

DISEASE CONTROL - Properly identify diseases prior to attempting control measures. In some cases, the best control measure is to invigorate the plant. Some diseases cannot be controlled; others may have progressed too far when symptoms appear. Seek the advice of professionals.

TURF

PLANTING - Establishing a lawn or laying sod in fall is advantageous because temperatures are warm enough for seed germination, danger of drought is minimized, and more time is available for root system establishment before the next year's growing season. This decreases the need for intense watering during summer and the chances of "burnout" from intense summer heat. In milder climates of the Mid-Atlantic, lawns can be planted as late as December with ample time for germination and root system establishment before winter.

OVERSEEDING - Usually accompanied by aeration or dethatching, and is most successful in the fall.

WATERING - A newly established lawn must be kept moist especially during drought. Monitor rainfall and check to see if moisture is penetrating the upper soil layer. The best time to water is in the early morning or evening. Watering after sundown is discouraged as this creates a moist environment that can encourage the growth of fungal diseases. Discontinue watering when runoff is observed as this indicates that absorption has ceased. Relocate sprinklers frequently to allow thorough absorption and evenly distribute moisture to the entire lawn.

AERATION - This is a method of relieving lawn compaction and providing oxygen to the root system that is most beneficial when combined with lime/fertilizer application in the fall. Avoid aerating during droughts as this will increase moisture loss from the lawn.

FERTILIZING - Fall fertilizing provides the maximum benefit to the turf. Fertilizing once per season provides the necessary soil supplement for the lawn. Apply lime to the turf in spring rather than fertilizer to adjust soil pH and to control weeds. Asterisks indicate that while it is possible to fertilize in spring, most of the fertilizer is used immediately for top-growth and provides little benefit for root development. Spring rains offer less nutrient absorption and increase fertilizer runoff of nitrogen and phosphorus to local streams which is harmful to aquatic life.

PEST CONTROL - If lawn pest control is absolutely necessary, choose a method that only selects the target pests. Preventive maintenance is unnecessary for most lawn pests and should only be "controlled" when a problem is clearly identified, such as flea or grub infestation. Never apply pesticides within 48 hours of rainfall to minimize toxic runoff and follow label directions closely.

WEED CONTROL - Try to control individual weed seed sources by preventing seed-heads from forming and hand-pulling weeds individually before they become a problem. Change soil pH by applying lime. Allow grass to grow 1 to 2 inches higher by raising mower height; this will "crowd out" weeds and reduce "lawn brown-out" where weeds can establish. Only use a weed-control/fertilizer if alternative methods have failed. If lawn area is over 50% weeds, consider complete lawn reestablishment or alternatives (see CFN bulletin on *Turf Alternatives*).

▲ **WATERING ESTABLISHED TURF** - Avoid excessive watering during prolonged drought. Consider the following alternatives: Monitor rainfall during summer months to anticipate drought; mow less frequently or not at all to allow foliage to retain moisture; and water during the cooler periods of the day. Most importantly, accept the fact that lawns cannot always be perfectly green no matter how much water is applied, and that the lawn will rejuvenate from the roots once the drought is ended. Use water for trees and shrubs during drought instead!

