

THREE MONTH "TO-DO" LIST

A GUIDE FOR YOUR SPRING & EARLY SUMMER LANDSCAPING.

APRIL

Flowers

- Begin planting and dividing most perennials except bearded iris and peony.
- Plant pansies and hardy annuals.
- Finish pulling back mulch from around perennials and roses.
- Prune summer and fall blooming clematis.
- Spray emerging peonies with fungicide if diseases such as botrytis have been a problem in the past.
- Plant bare root plants before they leaf out. Fertilize container plantings.

Lawn

- Mow lawn to 2 inches removing no more than 1/3 of leaf blade at any one mowing.
- Establish or renovate turf by seed or sod.
- Use postemergence herbicides for actively growing broadleaf weeds as necessary. Consider spot treatment rather than complete lawn application.
- Reduce thatch if more than .5 inch by using core aerifiers or vertical mowers.
- Core aerifiers may be used to reduce soil compaction and poor soil drainage.

Trees/Shrubs

- Continue planting trees and shrubs.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia soon after bloom. Use renewal pruning by removing oldest stems at soil level. Spring flowering shrubs bloom on old wood before mid-June.
- Examine trees and shrubs for winter injury. Prune out and remove all dead and diseased wood.
- Fertilize if not done in fall and if soil test or reduced growth indicates need.
- Begin fungicide treatments for apple scab on crabapples if it has been a problem in the past. Consider replacing trees with disease resistant cultivars.

MAY

Flowers

- Remove spent flowers on spring flowering bulbs but wait until foliage ripens naturally before removing.
- Plant tender annuals after the last expected frost date, approximately May 15.
- Set flower supports early. Let plants grow through them.
- Over-wintered tender annuals or tropicals such as hibiscus, gardenia, mandevilla and geranium may be pruned, cleaned, fertilized and gradually introduced to a protected location outdoors once night temperatures reach 50°F.

- Begin pinching top 1-2 inches of new growth on chrysanthemums to encourage full bushy plants.
- Severely prune sage, butterfly bush, Russian sage and Caryopteris to stimulate growth. Wait until lavender shows new growth before pruning off winter-killed stems.
- With sharp spade, edge flower beds.

Lawn

- Fertilize in early May with one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Slow release nitrogen forms are preferred.
- Continue postemergence herbicide treatment for broadleaf weeds if necessary.

Trees/Shrubs

- Pinch azalea and rhododendron blossoms as they fade.
- Fertilize azaleas after bloom. Use fertilizer for acid-loving plants.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as lilac, weigela, viburnum and flowering almond soon after bloom using renewal method.
- Monitor pines especially Scotch for caterpillar-like sawfly larvae on new shoots.
- Finish pruning spring flowering shrubs such as lilac and viburnum soon after flowering.
- Late May as bridal wreath spirea finishes bloom scout for pine needle scale and oyster shell scale crawlers by circling stem with inverted black tape. Best time for control.

JUNE

Flowers

- Deadhead flowers to encourage additional blooming, reduce reseeding and to reduce disease.
- Trim back some perennials such as aster and beebalm to lessen need for staking and delay or stagger bloom times.
- Monitor roses for black spot fungal disease. Remove and destroy infected leaves.

Lawn

- Mow and water as necessary.
- Fertilize in mid-June if making 4 applications per year and only if adequate water will be supplied in summer. Slow-release nitrogen forms are preferred.
- Continue postemergence herbicide treatment for weeds if necessary.
- Establish or renovate lawn with sod only.

Trees/Shrubs

- Early June when catalpa starts to bloom scout for and apply control for euonymus scale.
- Trim pine candles if reduction of growth is needed.
- Mulch with organic mulches to at least the drip line of the tree.