

March - May SPRING MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Here is a checklist to help you with your chores:

Perennials (plants that live for more than 2 growing seasons):

- Reset and remulch perennials that have heaved out of the ground during the winter months. Make sure to keep mulch 2-3 inches away from the plant (crown).
- Remove winter mulches, dead foliage, and any other debris from perennials.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and other perennials that were left up for winter interest. Tying twine around large bunches of ornamental grass before cutting them makes this chore easier and a lot less messy!
- Amend beds with compost if possible and/or fertilize with slow release fertilizer (we use Osmocote) when growth begins.
- Divide and transplant summer and fall blooming perennials and ornamental grasses as needed. Be sure your soil is not too wet. Take a handful of soil and compress—it should fall apart easily in your hand.
- Get those weeds now, while they are small!!!
- Plant new additions & replacement plants after the danger of frost is past (generally after Mother's Day).
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide such as Preen and replenish mulch as needed to help prevent weeds throughout the year. Mulch also helps retain moisture and regulate soil temperatures throughout the year.

Spring Bulbs:

- Remove piled mulch, leaves, and debris.
- Fertilize with bulb food while they are growing and blooming.
- Deadhead spent blooms, but leave foliage until it begins to turn a yellowish-green color. This will encourage bulb growth.
- Divide clumps of old, non-blooming bulbs.
- Decide where you would like to add new bulbs and mark those areas with small stakes. This takes all the guesswork out of your bulb planting in the fall.

Trees & Shrubs:

- Remove winter protection (tree wraps or guards).
- Prune any dead or broken branches. Pruning can be tricky, so here are some quick tips.
 - Fruit trees should be pruned while dormant.
 - Roses should be pruned when the Forsythia blooms.
 - For best results, make a 45 degree cut above a healthy bud, angled away from center of plant.
 - Spring blooming plants (Forsythia, Rhododendron, Weigela, Lilac) should be pruned immediately AFTER flowering.

- Plants that are prized for their fruit (Viburnum, Hawthorn) should be pruned after the fruit drops.
- Replenish mulch if needed. (Mulch should not touch or be piled on the stems/trunks of trees & shrubs.)

Lawns:

- Check for snow mold (forms under snow or matted leaves). Rake infected areas to dry out.
- Reseed areas as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent crabgrass control when the Forsythia blooms.
- Begin mowing as needed. Leave grass at 2.5"-3.5". Apply fertilizer if desired.

Annuals (plants that complete their life cycle in 1 growing season):

- Annuals can add long-term bloom to your landscape! Plant annuals after the danger of frost is past (generally after May 15).
- Annuals prefer a fertile, well-drained, light crumbly soil. Amend beds with compost if possible and fertilize with slow release fertilizer.
- Consider adding some beautiful, annual filled containers to your landscape! Containers should be filled with a light soilless mix and must have drainage holes. We carry some beautiful cast iron containers and pottery, but have seen old trunks, boots, buckets, etc., use your imagination! Once again, we recommend using a slow release fertilizer when planting.

SUMMER GARDEN MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

WEED—We know it's hot, but don't let your guard down now! Weeds love the heat and will quickly get out of control if we don't keep up with them.

PLANT—If there are seeing empty spots in the garden, you can still plant successfully in spite of the hot weather. Just make sure you keep your new plantings watered properly.

WATER—Most plants perform best when they receive 1 inch of water per week. Early morning watering is best as there is less evaporation and plenty of time for foliage to dry. Soaker hoses and timers are great tools to help keep up with this chore.

FERTILIZE CONTAINER PLANTINGS—Constant watering leaches nutrients from the soil quickly. We recommend that you use a water soluble fertilizer throughout the season. Follow the application directions listed on the packaging of the product you choose.

DEADHEAD—Removing flowers that are past their prime keeps your garden looking neat and fresh. It prompts some plants to flower again and channels other plant's energy into developing their root systems.

ENJOY!!!