
Slusser's Green Thumb, Inc.

Landscape Maintenance Schedule

Slusser's Green Thumb, Inc.
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JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Turf:

Avoid salt damage along sidewalks and driveways. When temperatures above are zero, the use of urea instead of salt will melt ice and not damage turf.

Remove any wind driven leaves or trash.

Seeding turf areas can begin in mid-February provided there is no snow on the ground. Broad cast seeding is effective at this time of year with no loss to germination potential.

Trees:

Check the trunks and root collars of trees for rodent damage. If necessary, use plastic or wire protectors. While in the dormant period, trees may be pruned provided temperatures are above 32 degrees to avoid additional damage to tissue. Dormant oils may also be applied provided the temperature will remain above 32 degrees for 24 hours after application.

Evergreens will continue to transpire throughout the year. A three-inch to six-inch layer of mulch is required over the root zone to prevent desiccation.

Shrubs and Perennials:

Replace or replenish mulch to maintain a 3 to 4 inch layer

MARCH

Turf:

Overseeding thin turf areas can be done at this time. However for thin turf, heavy fall fertilization is more effective and will produce better long-term results. If seeding at this time, use a rate of 2.5 pounds per thousand square feet.

Trees and Shrubs:

This is a good time to begin inspecting plantings for potential pest problems. Make regular inspections at two-week intervals making notes of identified pest problems and suggested solutions. For control of over wintering insects and egg masses, the use of dormant-oils is effective. Horticulture-oils are just as effective, and in sensitive plants, less Phytotoxic. These newer oils are lighter and can be used late into the season. As with any pesticide, read and follow label directions.

APRIL

Turf:

Apply crabgrass pre emergence control about mid month. Crabgrass germinates when soil temperature reach 55 degrees. This requires five consecutive days of 65 degrees or higher. If we have a wet spring, wait until later to apply control to prevent barrier from leaching below seed.

If turf is in need of fertilization, apply only one-quarter pound nitrogen per one thousand square foot of turf. If you have applied the maximum fall application, then spring and early summer fertilization is not needed. A good analysis turf fertilizer should have a ratio of 4:1:2 with slow release nitrogen.

Rolling of turf should be avoided unless there has been excessive heaving or mode damage. Rolling causes compaction and poor root development.

If season is advanced, mowing might begin. First cut should be slightly shorter to encourage greening.

Trees, Shrubs and Perennials:

Continue scouting plant material for signs of insect and mechanical damage. Remove any dead or damaged branches or limbs. Make applications of Bordeaux (lime-sulfur mix) or copper sulfate for control of mildew on perennials. Apply pre emergent control to beds; use granular material such as Treflan or Goal. If winter annuals are present, use a tank mix of roundup and surflan to control emerged, as well as non-emerged, weeds.

MAY

Turf:

Mow grass at a height of 3 inches. Do not allow grass to get taller than 4 inches before mowing. Check for soil insects and treat with Diazinon or Oftanol. Treatment of soil insects at this time will result in poor control. Use of Merit, applied in mid July, will be timelier for grub control. If additional fertilization is needed, apply one quarter pound of Nitrogen per one thousand square feet. If turf was properly fertilized in the fall, no additional fertilization will be necessary.

Irrigated turf should not be watered at night to avoid disease problems. If disease is present, only treat with fungicide if damage is extensive. Most diseases will dissipate as environmental condition changes.

Trees and Shrubs:

Be sure plant materials do not become water stressed. If irrigation is required, apply one inch of water to root zone in one application between the hours of 4 AM and 10 AM to prevent evaporation. One application per week should be adequate. Plants that wilt in the afternoon are not necessarily in need of watering, Check plants early in the morning for wilting. Wilting at this time is an indication of water stress.

Remove weeds from shrub beds and around trees; continue by-weekly inspections for insect or other pest problems.

Flowering trees and shrubs that bloom before June 30th should be pruned immediately after blooming, so that next year's flower buds will not be affected.

Perennials:

Allow spring flowering bulbs to continue to grow until the foliage begins to die back. An application of fertilizer with slow release nitrogen will benefit bulbs at this time.

JUNE

Turf:

New sod that has been laid should be kept moist for 4 to 5 weeks or until it has firmly rooted into the existing soil. If seeding a new lawn, apply one inch of water in one application to the seeded area. Do not allow top quarter inch of soil to dry out. Mulching with straw or syringing with two applications of one-quarter inch of water daily, during hot periods, will help germination. Once established, gradually reduce frequency of watering back to one inch, in one application, per week.

Mowing should be done on a regular time schedule, removing only one third of the grass blade in any single mowing. This will eliminate the need to catch grass clippings and

add organic matter to the soil. A high maintenance lawn will require more frequent mowing. During dry periods, irrigation may be required to maintain a good appearance.

Trees, Shrubs and Perennials:

Continue pruning of early flowering ornamentals. Watch for weed, insect and disease problems and control according to recommended practices. Use of pheromone traps could be helpful in predicting possible insect problems. Hot weather in the later part of this month could cause scale insects and mites to populate very rapidly. Contact your Local County Extension office for assistance if needed. During periods of stress, water once per week with one inch of water over the root zone. Be sure not to over water.

New plantings should be watched closely for proper moisture. Do not over water. After root ball has been soaked from the initial watering, continue to water throughout the summer and fall with one inch of water per week, applied in one application allowing for rainfall. Some street or sidewalk plantings could require additional water due to reflective heating caused by unnatural surroundings.

JULY

Turf:

Mow as needed, frequency of mowing should decrease due to heat stress on cool season grasses. Irrigation will be required if turf is to remain green throughout the season. If restrictions on irrigation are enforced, due to extended drought periods, one half inch of water per month is all that is required by grasses to keep the crown from dying.

Trees and Shrubs:

Continue to scout for weed, insect and disease problems. Only treat problems that are causing significant damage. During hot periods aphids, scale insects, and mites populate rapidly. The use of pheromone traps could aid in early detection of insects. Remember that the presence of insects does not necessarily indicate a need to spray. Provide water for newly planted trees and shrubs as needed. Established plantings should be watered if season has been dry. Use at least one inch of water per week in one application. Applications of an additional one half of pre-emergence herbicide in planting beds will extend weed control. Weed beds as needed.

Trees that have lost considerable foliage but retain at least one third of their foliage past the first of July are usually able to recover for the following season.

AUGUST

Turf:

Mow when needed. Never allow grass to reach a height where any more than one third of the blade will be removed. Irrigate when rainfall is less than one inch per week. Fertilize in the last two weeks of this month, with three-quarters of a pound of nitrogen, per 100 sq. feet.

Scout turf areas for insect and disease problems. Grubs will begin to show up during the last two weeks of this month. Treat at populations of four grubs per square foot, lower population should not cause damage to the turf.

Trees, Shrubs and Perennials:

Maintain adequate moisture for newly planted trees and shrubs. Water established plants only during periods of extreme drought stress. Continue to scout for weed, insect and disease problems. Maintain at least three inches of mulch on all beds to reduce weed development.

SEPTEMBER

Turf:

Continue to water as needed. Mowing should continue at the prescribed height of three inches. Seed any bare areas with prescribed seed. Do not let any newly seeded areas dry out. Mulching lightly with straw will reduce moisture loss. Mulch to a depth of one straw thick. Over mulching will result in poor germination.

This is the best month to establish turf by direct seeding. Cool season grasses will do better as temperatures begin to cool off and rain amounts begin to pick up. Lack of organic matter in the soil will result in poor establishment. Three cubic yards of finely screened compost per 1000 sq. feet will significantly improve turf establishment. A seed mix containing 60 % bluegrass and 40 % perennial ryegrass will work well.

Broadleaf weed control is best done in the fall and will result in better effectiveness than during any other season.

Heavy fall fertilization will also result in a greener, denser, turf next spring. A 4:1:2 ratio fertilizer (20-5-10), applied at a rate of two pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq. feet, applied now and again in October and November will significantly improve the appearance of turf by next spring.

Trees, Shrubs and Perennials:

Continue to scout for weed, insect and disease problems and treat as needed. Applications of pesticides are not recommended at this time unless there is heavy infestation or treatment would result in lower insect pressure next spring. Most plants will be in the process of going dormant and use of pesticides will not likely be of benefit to the plants. Begin to rake early fall leaves and remove debris from plant beds. Check mulch and be sure to maintain a three inch depth. Make application of pre-emergent herbicide for control of winter annuals.

OCTOBER

Turf:

Continue to mow as needed maintaining three-inch height. Check for control of broadleaf weeds and retreat if necessary. Make any additional applications of fertilizer needed. If seeding this late in the season, use a mixture of 60% perennial ryegrass and 40% bluegrass and make sure that all seed has good seed soil contact. Remove fallen leaves to prevent damage of turf areas.

Trees and Shrubs:

Fertilization using a good granular fertilizer with slow-release nitrogen should be done at this time. A 4:1:2 ratio will work well. Use about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. for each inch of trunk diameter. This should be broadcast in the root zone around the drip line of the plant. If the root zone includes turf areas, be sure not to exceed 2 lbs. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. feet.

For conifers, this is their dormant period and they will cast off their oldest needles. Do not mistake this for a disease. Conifers also require plenty of moisture to get them into shape for winter. They will require one inch of water weekly until the ground freezes. Supplement rainfall to be sure soil is charged. Mulch under evergreens with six inches of organic mulch to protect the root zone from freezing, resulting in winter burn.

Perennials:

Perennials will have to be divided every three to four years. This is a good time to dig and divide perennials and replant them. Leave at least two stems per division or divide into two equal parts. Move extra plants to new beds or discard them. After replanting, fertilize with a 4:1:2 ratio fertilizer at a rate of one pound per 100 sq. ft. Mulch bed with three to four inches of organic mulch and apply a granular pre-emergent herbicide. Herbaceous perennials need to be divided at different times. Consult references or your Local County Extension office for this information.

NOVEMBER

Turf:

Remove fall leaves from turf to prevent smothering grass plants. When mowing turf for the last time during the season, lower your cutting height to one and one half inches (1 1/2'') to reduce chance of snow mold and winter burn. Make any additional fertilization applications necessary and check for weed control. Spot applications of broadleaf herbicides may be necessary for complete control. Prepare mowing equipment for storage.

Delayed dormant seeding is done at this time. Seeding should be done with a slice seeder to insure that the seed is in contact with the soil and not exposed to winter temperatures. Bare areas should be mulched to prevent drying. Seeding done in this fashion has a very high success rate comparable to other forms of spring seeding.

Trees and Shrubs:

Continue to scout for signs of pests especially the presence of egg masses and other indication of over wintering insects. Remove any diseases, damages or dead branches/stems. Use horticultural oils as a dormant application as long as temperatures will remain above 32 degrees for 24 hours after application.

Perennials:

Remove leaves and debris from beds. Continue to monitor beds for signs of weeds. Spot treat with herbicides if temperatures will remain above 40 degrees for 48 hours after application. Maintain three to four inches of mulch on beds and cover the crowns of temperature sensitive perennials for winter protection.

DECEMBER

Turf:

Finish any leaf removal to prevent damage to turf areas. Applications of fertilizer are all right as long as the ground is not frozen.

Trees and Shrubs and Perennials:

Monitor for signs of pest problems and desiccation from winter winds. Plants that routinely show winter desiccation may be treated with one application of wilt proof to reduce damage. More than one treatment is detrimental to the plant. Plants that have a reoccurring problem are usually not appropriate for the location and should be replaced.