



Seasonal Landscape Maintenance Schedule

The seasons in the garden for Chicago are always different year to year. Mother Nature can bring things earlier or later depending on heat, cold, rain or snow, but the following schedule is designed to give not only our customers but others a guideline to the Garden needs in our area.

January and February

Other than removing snow from walkways and drives, review your evergreens. Snow pack can disfigure and even break evergreen branches if allowed to accumulate, lightly shake excess snow off when it appears to be collecting or during times of heavy snow fall.

March

Depending on weather look for us to begin spring cleanups around march 15th. Also a good time to pull back mulch around protected plants and sit back to watch the spring flowers. Review deciduous plants before full leaf development has begun to remove any crossing or erroneous branches

April

We are in full spring mode and doing spring cleanups daily. Check for any broken or damaged branches due to the winter snows. Pre-emergent applications are to be applied and mowing will start at the end of the month depending on weather. Automatic irrigation systems should be primed for use.

May

Weekly mowing is at full speed and the grass is growing quickly. Balanced fertilizers will be applied. Planting of annuals and vegetables is generally safe by Mothers Day. Don't forget to plant summer bulbs in early in the month.

June

Continue weekly mowing. Trimming of spring growth will happen during this month, time can fluctuate due to weather, but the 15th is a good rule. Flowering plants should only be pruned after flower production is complete.

July-August

Continue weekly mowing and add slow release fertilizer. Watch for dehydration of plants and augment with irrigation or hand watering. To maintain a lush lawn it may be necessary to keep up with watering requirements, although not necessary for long term vitality.

September

Continue weekly mowing and review change over from summer to fall annuals; some may include another fertilization application. Review evergreens and some deciduous plants to remove erroneous branches and shape hedges accordingly.

October

Weekly mowing will be coming to a close, although may extend into the first week of November. Fall fertilization should be applied after final mow. This month is an excellent time to planting spring bulbs for next year.

November

Fall cleanups are going strong and we are slowly closing gardens down for the winter season ahead. It is still not too late for spring bulb installation.

December

Some fall cleanups may move into early December but rare, by now the gardens are clean, the furniture is put away and it is time to install fall lights, consider your holiday display and rest for a job well done.

Planting Schedule

We feel fall is the best time to plant, the only problem is then you have to wait a full season to enjoy the fruits of our labor. In reality the best time to plant is when the plants are available and when resources are available to keep new plants comfortable. Plants are generally available from mid March to late November. If you are able to keep a watch on watering in July versus April, then that is the best time for you to plant.

As a basic rule we follow this schedule:

Shrubs and trees are planted March to December

Perennials are planted March to October

Spring bulbs are planted in October/November

Summer Bulbs are planted March/April

Note: Many tree and shrubs have specific time lines when they can be harvested, so often once the plants are gone at the nurseries, they will not be available until the following year.

Construction Schedule

This can vary so much due to weather, supply availability and application. A General rule is we build projects from March 15th to December 15th of the calendar year. These dates vary due to nighttime temperatures being at 40 degrees and the type of installation. Construction schedules can be extended with heated or tented work environments well into the winter months, but these do come with associated extra costs.