

Landscape Management Schedule

A Yearly Calendar

One of the most common questions we hear is: "What should I be doing in my yard this month?" Unfortunately, most gardening guides are not written specifically for our Piedmont North Carolina climate, so books often leave us all guessing. Well, we've eliminated the guesswork! If you'll keep this handy guide near your gardening gloves, you'll be able to stay up-to-date. Results? A prettier lawn and garden . . . and a happier YOU.

January

- ◇ Add a handful of lime to Crepe Myrtle to prevent powdery mildew.
- ◇ Prune Crepe Myrtle for summer bloom.
- ◇ Prune fruit trees, grape vines, berries, etc. Select the strongest and most vigorous branches to remain, pruning the diseased and weak ones.
- ◇ Protect trees, shrubs, and evergreens in snow by gently shaking branches to prevent the accumulation of heavy snowfall which can break the branches.

February

- ◇ Cut back liriopse and other perennials to stimulate new spring growth.
- ◇ Begin planting trees.
- ◇ Water if dry during the month.
- ◇ Apply pre-emergent crabgrass preventer at least 8-12 weeks before sowing grass.

March

- ◇ Fertilize established trees and shrubs (except Azaleas and Rhododendron) with a balanced, slow release fertilizer. We recommend (and use) **PlantTone**. **Make an application of pelletized lime to the lawn every three years or according to soil tests, preferably by mid-spring.**
- ◇ Continue to plant trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Water thoroughly when planted, and continue to water if dry during the month. (Consult our Watering Guide for more details.)
- ◇ Sharpen tools and lawnmower blades.
- ◇ In early March, apply **HollyTone** or Scotts **Evergreen Tree and Shrub** fertilizer to Rhododendrons and Azaleas to encourage blooming.

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newgarden.com
email:info@newgarden.com

New Garden Village
5572 Garden Village Way
Greensboro, NC 27410
phone: 336-665-0291

New Garden Gazebo
3811 Lawndale Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27455
phone: 336-288-8893



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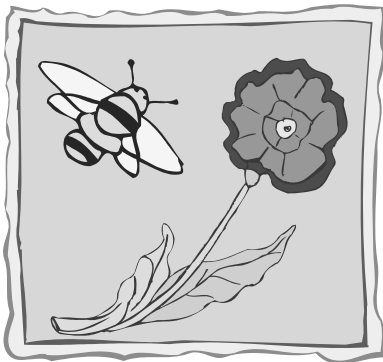
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- ◇ In mid- to late March apply Cottonseed Meal to Boxwoods.

April

- ◇ Begin mowing the lawn to no less than 3 inches in height. Browning-out will occur if grass is cut too short.
- ◇ Apply Weed & Feed to lawns (if not previously fertilized with a slow release fertilizer). Apply only after weeds have emerged.
- ◇ In early April, prune roses (floribundas, hybrid teas, grandifloras). Select three to five healthy canes to remain. Spot spray weeds in beds or natural areas with Roundup, and/or apply granular pre-emergent labeled for beds.
- ◇ Spray azaleas, pyracantha, pieris, and rhododendron in late April for control of lacebug. Make three applications of **All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil, Systemic Insect Control**, or a labeled product containing imidacloprid **according to label directions**.
- ◇ When new growth begins on trees and shrubs - especially maples and birches - check for the presence of aphids, spider mites, and other unsavory chewing insects. Spray them, if desired, with **Bonide Systemic Insect Control** or a labeled product containing imidacloprid **according to label directions**.
- ◇ After the last chance for frost (around April 15th in our area) begin setting out annuals and perennials. Begin a regular fertilization program for continuous bloom, using **Bone Meal** or **Rock Phosphate**.
- ◇ Continue to plant shrubs through April and use Espoma **BioTone** to encourage new root growth. Be sure to provide water as needed during this month of active growth.



May

- ◇ Prune all early flowering shrubs after blooming.
- ◇ After they bloom, fertilize all flowering shrubs. Use **Scotts Evergreen Tree and Shrub Fertilizer** for Azaleas, Rhododendron, and Camellia, or, if you prefer the or-

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- ganic route, use Espoma **HollyTone**. Be careful to only apply fertilizer around the perimeter of the plant, not near the trunk.
- ◇ Spray shrubs in late May to destroy scale in the crawler stage on camellia, using **All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil, Systemic Insect Control, Organicide**, or a product containing imidacloprid **according to label directions**.
 - ◇ Fertilize with Espoma **RoseTone** and spray or dust roses for black spot, powdery mildew, and insects. Try **Rose Rx Systemic Drench**, or **Infuse** systemic fungicide. This should be done continuously throughout the summer. (A rose expert once said that if you can spare 20 minutes per week for your roses, you'll be rewarded all season long.)
 - ◇ In late May, plant Summer-blooming bulbs, such as caladiums, gladiolus, daylilies, and dahlias. Use Espoma **BulbTone** at planting.
 - ◇ If ants and other lawn insects are a problem, apply **Diatomaceous Earth, Eight**, or a labeled product containing **Pyrethrin**. (Please, please, please, always use chemicals according to directions and only as needed!)
 - ◇ Mulch flower beds, shrubs, and trees (but don't mound the mulch up around the trunks) to retain moisture. Water plantings if necessary during the month. A long, slow watering weekly is better than daily sprinkles to get moisture completely to the plants' roots.

June

- ◇ Continue to spray for weeds if a problem in the lawn. Hand pull weeds in beds to avoid spray injury to desired plants.
- ◇ Prune evergreen shrubs now (hollies, boxwood, camellia, leucothoe, junipers).
- ◇ Remove old, dead branches and prune to shape. This is the month to enjoy your roses; continue fertilizing and spraying them.
- ◇ Remove dead roses by cutting the bloom and stem back to a five-leaflet leaf. (As for all blooming plants, remove dead blooms--called deadheading--to encourage new blooms.)
- ◇ Watch for Japanese beetles beginning to emerge. Use beetle traps or repellent and spray with **Eight** or **Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew** (organic). Several applica-



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tions will be needed throughout the summer.

- ◇ Prune climbing roses soon after they bloom. Cut out diseased and dead canes, leaving four or five vigorous, young canes. (Next year's blooms are produced on shoots that grow during the remainder of this year.)
- ◇ Watch for chlorosis (leaves turning yellow between veins) on boxwoods, azaleas, camellias, and other plants. This condition, usually caused by a lack of iron, can be remedied easily with the application of liquid iron during the cool part of the day. (if iron application does not clear up chlorosis, have your soil tested for low sulfur levels)
- ◇ Add a handful of **rock phosphate** or **bone meal** to the soil around azaleas and rhododendron to help produce blooms for the new year.
- ◇ Continue to water if necessary, especially newly-planted trees and shrubs.

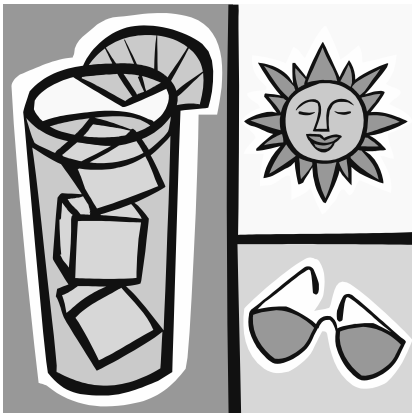
July

- ◇ Check evergreens for red spider mites and other insects. Spray if needed with **All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil** or **Systemic Insect Control**. Watch temperatures closely when spraying insecticides: don't spray when temperatures are reaching the '90s.
- ◇ Asters and chrysanthemums should be kept pinched back until July 4th to encourage heavy Fall blooming.
- ◇ Continue spraying your roses.
- ◇ Water is essential during our hot, often dry summers. Remember - a long, thorough, gentle watering to the roots is best.

August

- ◇ Spray Bermuda grass with **Ornamec** in shrub and grass areas-read label carefully before application.
- ◇ Prune deciduous shrubs again if necessary. Continue watering.

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September

- ◇ Now is the time to crank up your schedule! This is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs- through December. Seed, reseed, and fertilize your lawns, and use a slow-release lawn food.
- ◇ Continue spraying roses. When cool nights appear, you can expect plenty of new blooms.
- ◇ Apply **milky spore** to lawns to kill Japanese beetle grubs overwintering in the soil.

October

- ◇ Plant spring flowering bulbs in late October, or when the soil temperature lowers. Apply fertilizers (**BulbTone, PlantTone, bone meal, manure, cottonseed meal**) when planting.
- ◇ Divide and transplant perennials, peonies, ground covers, and bulbs.

November

- ◇ Mulch trees and shrubs.
- ◇ Plant trees and shrubs, and don't forget to water them regularly if needed.
- ◇ During winter months, don't forget to use a moisture meter to check houseplants for the amount of water they need. Watch for insects.
- ◇ Even though plants are not in an active growth mode during the winter, they still need water to survive. If the winter months are dry and the soil stays frozen, watering will be necessary, especially for shallow-rooted plants like azaleas, rhododendron, dogwoods, and white pines.

December

- ◇ Last chance to plant bulbs!
- ◇ Make sure to remove leaves from around grass and shrubs. Decaying leaves will choke plants.



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General Notes

- ♦ Follow instructions on container before mixing chemicals. Never use the same sprayer for herbicides and insecticides. Always wash the sprayer thoroughly before mixing any different type of chemical in it.
- ♦ Do not fertilize cool-season grasses (Fescue) from May 1 through August 31.
- ♦ Prune flowering shrubs and trees AFTER they bloom.
- ♦ Prune deciduous trees and dogwoods while they are dormant.
- ♦ Hollies which produce berries can be pruned most any time; however, summer pruning may reduce winter berry production.
- ♦ Evergreens should be pruned in spring after new growth to reduce size and maintain shape.
- ♦ Be careful not to wound trees or shrubs with mowers; disease or insects may infest the wounded area. Mulch around them to prevent "Weed-Eater Kill."
- ♦ High nitrogen fertilizers are best for green foliage growth on trees, shrubs, foliage plants.
- ♦ High phosphorous fertilizers help produce more buds for flowering - marigolds, geraniums, azaleas.
- ♦ Yellowing leaves can indicate too much moisture. Check for drainage problems, raising the planting height if you spot any standing water.
- ♦ Do not apply fertilizer near the trunk of a tree or shrub.

See newgarden.com/resources for additional calendars, pruning guides and other plant information.



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