



MAINTAINING YOUR LANDSCAPE
ANNUAL CALENDAR

MARCH

- Clean winter debris, leaves, and twigs from your lawn and planting beds.
- Remove tree wrap and other winter protection.
- Cut back grasses (10"-12" high) and perennials (approx. 2"-3" high) before new growth emerges
- Fertilize trees and shrubs before they leaf out using Miracle-Gro or Miracid
- Apply Ortho Volck Oil Spray to flowering crabs, fruit trees, and evergreens (do NOT apply to Spruce or Red Bud) to prevent damage from scale and mites. (temperatures should be no lower than 40 degrees when applied).
- Order your 4 Step Fertilizer Program.
- Make an appointment for core aeration.
- Apply a weed preventer such as Preen to landscape beds to prevent the germination of weeds and grass.
- Apply a fresh layer of mulch (2-3") to your landscape beds.
- Freshen up spaded/natural edge.
- Slightly move mulch away from perennials to allow the soil to dry and warm.
- Add bone meal or bulb booster to your soil when foliage from spring bulbs appear.
- Examine trees & shrubs early in the month before leaves emerge, for signs of diseased or damaged wood.
- Prune to remove any crossing or rubbing branches (Do NOT trim magnolia, forsythia, lilac and other spring bloomers until after flowering in the spring).

DID YOU KNOW?

Pruning your plants will keep them healthy, vigorous, and improve flowering. Many plants flower on new wood. Pruning removes old and damaged stems/branches and encourages new growth.

APRIL

- Get you lawn off to a good start with core aeration.
- Mow your lawn for the first time at 2.5" mower blade height.
- Apply Step 1 of Step 4 Lawn Fertilizer Program with crabgrass preventer to your lawn, water thoroughly.
- Apply a weed preventer such as Preen Garden Weed Preventer to landscape beds to prevent germination of weeds and grass.
- Apply Preen Vegetable Garden Weed Preventer to areas that have been planted with groundcover and/or vegetables (unwanted weeds & grasses will be eliminated without damaging the plants you want to keep)
- Inspect flowering crabs for tent caterpillar webs and bag worms, Apply Malathion as needed.
- To control apple scab on crab apples apply a fungicide just as leaves begin to emerge, repeat every two weeks or as needed.
- Fertilize trees, shrubs, and evergreens with Miracid or Miracle-Gro; apply near the end of the month.

DID YOU KNOW?

Spider mites are among the most damaging pests of spruces and many other conifers. To check for mites, hold a piece of white paper under an evergreen branch and tap. Spider mites will appear as dark green to black specks (that move) about the size of pepper grains.

MAY

- Fertilize trees, shrubs, and evergreens with Miracid or Miracle-Gro a water soluble fertilizer.
- Apply an herbicide such as Ortho Weed-B-Gon for dandelion and other broadleaf weed control, do not water lawn for 24 hours after application.
- Prevent damage from Bronze Birch Borer and Leaf Miner with Bonide Borer Miner Killer, these pest can seriously threaten the health of your trees.
- Plant annuals, the Chicagoland area is considered “frost free” after May 15th.
- Overseed lawn or spread grass seed in bare areas if needed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Varying the mowing pattern can do more than make mowing your lawn interesting! Mowing in the same pattern every time tends to compact soil and causes wear patterns. Be sure to make changes in your mowing pattern to avoid problems.

JUNE

- Raise height of your lawn mower to 3”.
- Apply second application of Miracid or Miracle-Gro to your trees, shrubs, and evergreens.
- Apply a weed preventer such as Preen to landscape beds to prevent germination of weeds and grass.
- Apply Step 2 of Step 4 Lawn Fertilizer Program with weed control to your lawn, water thoroughly.
- Prune shrubs and evergreens to shape and size desired
- Feed your annuals, vegetables, and perennials with Miracle-Gro to promote color & growth.
- Apply a granular fungicide treatment to your lawn. Fungicide applications beginning in June will minimize the damage from outbreaks of fungus causing brown patch in hot, humid weather.
- Apply a preventative application of Season-Long Grub Control to avoid potential grub damage in your lawn.
- Freshen up spaded/natural edge.

DID YOU KNOW?

After prolonged periods of wet weather, you may notice mushrooms coming up in the lawn. This indicates the underground presence of decaying organic matter. Mushrooms cause no damage to the lawn. However, if you feel they are unsightly, remove them with a rake or lawn mower. They are NOT edible.

JULY

- Give your shrubs a light application of fertilizer (*50% less than normal*); do NOT feed your trees. Water thoroughly.
- Fertilize your annuals and vegetables with Miracle-Gro.
- Provide supplemental watering for lawns and plantings as required. Remember it is better to water established plants thoroughly, once each week, than to “sprinkle” them daily. (*1” of water per week naturally or manually*).
- Additional watering may be needed during the hot summer months, when watering the lawn it is important to water only in the early morning hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn does not contribute to thatch build-up. Clippings are 90% water and dry up to almost nothing; therefore, they are unable to pile up or tangle with thatch. As much as one third of a lawn’s nitrogen requirements can be supplied from decomposing grass clippings. Problems arise only when the grass has grown too long or if the lawn is mowed while wet. Long, wet clippings will form clumps that build up, tangle with thatch, and shade the areas below.

AUGUST

- Continue spot treatments of Ortho Weed-B-Gon for dandelion and broadleaf weed control
- Apply Step 3 of Step 4 Lawn Fertilizer Program with insect control to your lawn, water thoroughly, be aware of dry weather conditions, make sure to provide adequate water

DID YOU KNOW?

Leaf scorch on trees is caused by excessive evaporation from the leaves. In hot weather, water evaporates rapidly from foliage. If the roots can't absorb and provide water fast enough to replenish this loss, the leaves turn brown and wither. To avoid leaf scorch, water trees deeply during periods of hot weather. The premature browning of leaves is a signal that your trees are thirsty!

SEPTEMBER

- Lower the height of your mower to 2.5".
- Overseed/reseed bad spots in your lawn, September 15th is normally the last time for seeding.
- Prune and shape trees, shrubs, and evergreens for any noticeable overgrowth.
- Spot treat your lawn with Ortho Weed-B-Gon to control lingering weeds.
- Feed shrubs and evergreens for the last time with Miracle-Gro.
- Plant mums, ornamental kale and fall pansies for a colorful late-season addition to your landscape.
- Order and plant trees & shrubs for fall plantings.
- Freshen up spaded/natural edge.
- Install Fall Mums, Ornamental Cabbage/Kale and Pansy's for a splash of color.

DID YOU KNOW?

Raking leaves in the fall is completing half the process of making leaf mold, an excellent compost. Rake dry leaves into a pile, mow to shred, and place in black plastic bags. Stack bags in sunny location and wait for spring. This coarsely decomposed material, called leaf mold, is a fine soil amendment and excellent mulch for your annual and perennial beds.

OCTOBER

- Remove annual and vegetable plants from gardens and cultivate the planting areas.
- Reduce problems from overwintering insects and diseases by removing leaves and debris from planting beds. A fungicide drench of the soil in late fall and early spring will help to control fungus growth.
- Winterize your lawn near the end of the month using a Step 4 Lawn Fertilizer, water thoroughly. This will protect and strengthen your lawn throughout the winter months.
- Plant bulbs when the soil temperature cools to 60 degrees. Be sure to provide adequate drainage by adding peat moss and/or potting soil. Treat bulbs with bulb dust to inhibit fungus growth, and use bone meal or bulb food at planting time to encourage root development.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 3 most important things to remember when planting bulbs: Good Drainage! Good Drainage! Good Drainage!

NOVEMBER

- Cut your lawn for the last time.
- Remove leaves and debris from roses, cut back to about 10", mulch around the bud union before extreme temperatures set in.
- Continue with fall clean up, cut back perennials (*approx. 2-3"*) to help keep yard clean, neat and safe through the winter.
- Continue leaf and debris pick up from landscaping and lawn.
- Mulch perennial beds to prevent damage from frost-heaving (**be sure to move mulch slightly away from perennials in spring to allow the soil to dry & warm during sunny daytime periods**).
- Apply animal repellent to minimize winter damage from rabbits, deer and other rodents; cage plants that are more susceptible to animal damage than others.
- Give one last deep watering to your trees, shrubs, and evergreens before the ground freezes.
- Winterize your mower and sharpen the blade so that you will be ready for next season.
- Protect your broadleaf evergreens (*azaleas, rhododendron, holly and boxwood*) with Wilt Pruf; an anti-transpirant when sprayed twice each year will reduce the damage caused by drying winds and harsh winter temperatures.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can winter your potted perennials by sinking the pot in the ground. Enjoy miniature roses and perennials throughout the growing season in planters on your deck or patio. Let the ground provide insulation from hard-freezing by burying the pot to the soil line. Fill in and cover any spaces with mulch so that water will not accumulate, freeze, and form a frozen ring around your plant. Lift the pot from its winter home in spring after danger of freezing has past.

DECEMBER

- Continue leaf and debris pick up from landscaping and lawn.
- Install evergreen boughs to annuals beds and planters for winter color and interest.
- Install snow markers for driveways and curb lines.
- Cover and Store outdoor furniture.

Agema Landscape provides complete maintenance programs to fit your property's needs and budget. We also provide basic maintenance services such as pruning, lawn mowing, fertilizer applications and etc.

Call us today for your free consultation!