



# Landscape Maintenance Schedule

## EXTENSION

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The following maintenance schedule is a checklist with the emphasis on prevention rather than remediation.

### January

- If precipitation has been deficient (1 inch of snow = ~1/10 inch of water), water lawns, herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs, especially broadleaf and narrowleaf evergreens. Double check moisture in protected or raised planters and beds under eaves.
- Check on supplies of pesticides. Pesticides should be stored under non-freezing, ventilated, secured conditions. Check for leaks. Secure a copy of current recommendations and post them in a convenient place. Use only as per the original label or updated law. Dilution and quantity tables also are useful. Commercial applicators and other green industry professionals need to have label and MSDS accessible to employees.
- If you did not treat young pines for tip borers in November, do so before March. (EPP-7645)
- Make sure gardening tools and equipment are in good repair—sharpen, paint and repair hand tools, mowers, edgers, sprayers, etc.
- Inspect your irrigation system and replace worn or broken parts. (HLA-6615)
- Control overwintering insects on deciduous trees or shrubs with dormant oil sprays applied when the temperature is above 40 F in late fall and winter. Do not use “dormant” oils on evergreens. (EPP-7306)

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- A product containing glyphosate plus a post-emergent broadleaf herbicide that are both labeled for this use can be used on completely tan and dormant Bermudagrass in January or early February when temperatures are above 50 F for winter weed control. (HLA-6420)
- Apply first pre-emergent summer annual herbicide to turf areas from January to mid-March.

### February

- Base any fertilizer application on a soil test. For directions, contact your local OSU Extension educator.
- Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs as needed based on soil tests. (HLA-6412)
- Finish pruning shade trees, summer flowering shrubs and hedges. Spring-blooming shrubs such as forsythia may be pruned immediately after flowering. (HLA-6409)
- Most bare-root trees and shrubs should be planted in February or early-March. (HLA-6414)
- Pre-emergent herbicides labeled for landscape beds, such as shrub borders and perennial beds, can be applied at this time to control summer annual weeds.
- Apply first pre-emergent summer annual herbicide to turf areas from January to mid-March.
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (EPP-7306)
- A product containing glyphosate plus a broadleaf herbicide can be used on completely tan and dormant Bermudagrass in January or early February when temperatures are above 50 F for winter weed control. (HLA-6420)
- Place Nantucket pine tip moth pheromone traps by March 1.
- Pre-emergent crabgrass control chemicals can still be applied to cool- and warm-season turfgrasses (HLA-6420). Heed label precautions when using any herbicides near or in the root zone of desirable plantings.

### March

- Prepare lawn mower; install clean filters, check or change oil, sharpen blade and check air pressure in tires.
- Cultivate annual flower beds to destroy winter weeds.

- Broadleaf evergreens are best planted in the spring. (HLA-6414)
- Apply organic mulch to control weeds in landscape beds.
- Remove excessive thatch from warm-season lawns. Dethatching, if necessary, should precede crabgrass control treatment. (HLA-6604)
- March is the second-best time of the year to seed cool-season turfgrass; however, fall is the best time to plant. (HLA-6419)
- Cool-season lawns such as bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass may be fertilized now with the first application of the season. Usually, four applications of fertilizer are appropriate per year; March, May, October and November. Do not fertilize these cool-season grasses in summer months. (HLA-6420)
- Broadleaf weeds easily can be controlled in cool-season lawns at this time with post-emergent broadleaf herbicides. (HLA-6420)
- Begin mowing cool-season grasses at 1 1/2 inches to 3 1/2 inches high. (HLA-6420)
- Chemical and physical control of galls (swellings) on stems and foliage of trees should begin now. (EPP-7168 and EPP-7306)
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (EPP-7306)
- The first generation of Nantucket pine tip moth appears at this time. Begin pesticide applications in late March based on pheromone catches. (EPP-7306)
- Control of anthracnose on sycamore, maple and oak and other leaf diseases of ornamental shrubs and trees should begin at bud swell. (EPP-7634)
- Prune roses just before growth starts and begin a regular disease spray program as the foliage appears. Check with garden center personnel for roses that require few to no chemical applications. (HLA-6403 and EPP-7607)
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials if needed. Mow or cut back old lirioppe (also known as monkey grass) and other ornamental grass foliage.
- Be sure to read and follow all pesticide label directions, especially insecticides to help reduce loss of important insects such as pollinators and beneficial insects.

## April

- Control cedar-apple rust. When the orange jelly galls are visible on juniper (redcedar), begin treating apple and crabapple trees with a fungicide. Treat hawthorns accordingly. (EPP-7611)
- Fire blight bacterial disease can be controlled at this time. Use disease-resistant varieties when possible.
- Diplodia tip blight fungicide applications should be applied at bud break.
- Control of powdery mildew disease can be done with early detection and regular fungicide treatments. Many new plant cultivars are resistant. (EPP-7617)
- Most bedding plants, summer flowering bulbs and annual flower seeds can be planted after danger of frost. This happens around mid-April in most of Oklahoma.
- Let spring-flowering bulb (daffodil, tulip, etc.) foliage remain as long as possible before removing it.

- Fungicides for leaf spot diseases of ornamentals can be applied.
- Warm-season grass lawns, such as Bermudagrass, zoysiagrass or, in southern Oklahoma, St. Augustinegrass can be established beginning in mid-April from sprigs, plugs or sod. (HLA-6419)
- Warm-season grasses can be fertilized three to five times per season using one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in each application. Apply one-half to one pound in April, May, June, August and September for a moderate- to high-quality lawn. Water in fertilizers. (HLA-6420)
- Mowing of warm-season lawns can begin now. Cutting height for Bermudagrass and zoysiagrass should be 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches high. Mow buffalograss at 3 inches in height. (HLA-6420)
- Damage from spring dead spot disease (SDS) becomes visible in Bermudagrass. Perform practices that promote grass recovery. Do not spray fungicides at this time for SDS control. (EPP-7665)
- Apply preventative white grub treatments from late April to early June.
- Be alert for both insect pests and predators. Some pests can be hand-picked or removed with strong streams of water without using a pesticide. Do not spray pesticides if predators such as lady beetles are present. Spray only when there are too few predators to be effective.
- Remove any winter-damaged branches or plants that have not begun to grow by late April. (HLA-6404)
- Clean out water garden and prepare for season. Divide and repot water garden plants.
- Begin feeding fish when water temperatures are over 50 F.
- Nutsedge plants can become visible during this month, but wait until May for treatment.

## May

- Insect Alert: (EPP-7306)
  - o Bagworms on juniper, arborvitae and other trees and shrubs. (Late May)
  - o Elm leaf beetles and larvae on elms and zelkova. (Late May)
  - o Mimosa webworms on mimosa and honeylocust.
  - o Lace bugs on sycamore, pyracantha and azalea.
- Apply preventative white grub treatments from late April to early June
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed in mid-May.
- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again in early May. If you did not fertilize cool-season grasses in March and April, do so now.
- Warm-season lawns may be fertilized again in May. (HLA-6420)
- Seeding of warm-season grasses such as Bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass and centipedegrass is best performed in mid-May through the end of June. Soil temperatures are warm enough for germination and an adequate growing season left to promote winter hardiness.
- A simple irrigation checkup may reduce outdoor water use by helping identify problems with your irrigation system. (HLA-6615)

- Dollar spot disease of lawns can first become visible in late April to mid-May. Make certain fertilizer applications have been adequate before ever applying a fungicide. (EPP-7658)
- Post-emergent nutsedge treatments are best applied for the first time this month (HLA-6420). Make certain warm-season grasses have completed green-up.
- The second application of pre-emergent annual grass herbicides can be applied in mid-May or early June, depending on timing of first application. Check label for details. (HLA-6420)
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses can continue. (HLA-6419)
- Annual bedding plants can be set out for summer color.
- Soak new transplants and newly planted trees and shrubs unless rainfall is abundant.

## June

- Vigorous, unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened on new trees. Watch for forks in the main trunk and remove the least desirable leader as soon as it is noticed. (HLA-6415)
- Remain alert for insect damage. Spider mites begin to appear. Spider mite damage includes foliage of most plants becomes pale and speckled; juniper foliage turns a pale yellowish color. Shake a branch over white paper and watch for tiny specks that crawl. Watch for first generation of fall webworm. (EPP-7306)
- Apply preventative white grub treatments from late April to early June.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed again in mid-June.
- Cultivate and mulch. Mulching will reduce about 70% of the summer yard maintenance.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses as per April instructions.
- Dollar spot disease of lawns can continue in June. Make certain fertilizer applications have been adequate before applying a fungicide. (EPP-7658)
- Seeding of warm-season grasses should be completed by the end of June to reduce winter kill losses. (HLA-6419)
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can start to become a problem, avoid over watering these grasses. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- Conduct the simple irrigation audit in your home lawn. This simple procedure may save you money, keep plants healthier and help conserve Oklahoma water resources. (HLA-6610)
- Post-emergent control of crabgrass and summer annual grasses is best performed on young plants. (HLA-6420)
- Aerification of warm-season grasses like Bermudagrass should be done in summer months if needed to control compaction.
- Continue to water landscape deeply as needed. Apply at least 1 inch of water each time.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs or herbaceous plants will root if propagated in a moist, shady spot.

## July

- Divide and replant crowded hybrid iris (bearded iris) and other summer blooming perennials after flowering until August.
- Apply white grub treatments from late June to mid-July if needed.
- Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought. Water young plantings well.
- Mowing heights for cool-season turfgrasses should be 3 inches during hot, dry summer months. Gradually raise mowing height of Bermudagrass lawns from 1 1/2 inches to 2 inches.
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses should be completed by the end of July to ensure the least risk of winter kill. (HLA-6419)
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem if over watering or frequent rains occur. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- Another simple irrigation checkup may reduce outdoor water use by helping identify problems with your irrigation system. (HLA-6615)
- Fertilization of warm-season grasses can continue if water is present for growth. (HLA-6420)
- Aerification of warm-season grasses like Bermudagrass should be done in summer months if needed to control compaction.
- The hotter and drier it gets, the larger the spider mite populations become. Spraying a forcible stream of water will provide partial relief of this pest.

## August

- Water all plantings thoroughly unless rainfall has been adequate.
- The fall vegetable garden is planted now. (HLA-6009)
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials.
- Irrigated warm-season lawns may be fertilized again. (HLA-6420)
- Hedges and shrubs can be pruned, if necessary, about mid-August.
- Young trees and shrubs may be fertilized again. (HLA-6412)
- Discontinue dead-heading roses by mid-August to help initiate winter hardiness.
- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- For areas being converted to tall fescue this fall, begin spraying Bermudagrass with labeled glyphosate products in early August. (HLA-6419 & HLA-6420)
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate contact insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. (EPP-7306)
- Watch for a second generation of fall webworm in late August or early September.
- Pre-emergent herbicides for winter annual weed control in warm-season grasses can be applied in late August. Water in the product after application. (HLA-6420)

## September

- The last nitrogen fertilizer application of the year on warm-season grasses should be applied no later than September 15. (HLA-6420)
- Brown patch disease of tall fescue can still be a problem. (HLA-6420)
- White grub damage or foraging by animals can become visible this month. Plan to make preventative insecticide treatments next spring for white grubs. These insecticides should be watered into soil. (EPP-7306)
- Continue Bermudagrass spray program with labeled glyphosate products for areas being converted to tall fescue this fall. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- If pre-emergent control of winter-annual weeds is desired in lawns, the application should be completed by the second week of September. **Note:** Do not treat areas that will be seeded in the fall. (HLA-6420)
- Plan to seed bluegrass, fescue or ryegrass as needed in shady areas in late September through mid-October. Fall is the best time to establish cool-season lawns. (HLA-6419)
- Choose spring-flowering bulbs as soon as available.

## October

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs now in well-drained soils with good sunlight. Planting depth is two times bulb diameter.
- Plant pansies, ornamental kale, ornamental cabbage and other cool-season annuals.
- Dig and store tender summer bulbs and tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Be prepared to move tropical plants grown outside in containers inside before cold or freezing temperatures arrive. Prepare them for low indoor lighting by moving them into a shady area for several days and thoroughly check for pests and treat accordingly before moving indoors.
- Container-grown shade trees and pines are most successfully planted in the fall. Broadleaf evergreens or bare-root plants are best planted in the spring. (HLA-6414)
- In mid-October, fertilize cool-season lawns. (HLA-6420)
- Seeding of cool-season grasses for perennial lawns can continue through mid-October. (HLA-6419)
- Over-seeding of warm-season lawns with cool-season grasses for winter should be performed late this month. Warm-season lawns are healthiest if winter over-seeding is not performed. (HLA-6419)
- Continue mowing cool-season lawns on a regular basis, even if warm-season grasses have quit growing. (HLA-6420)
- Remove fallen leaves from cool-season grasses or mow with mulching mower. (HLA-6420)
- October is an excellent time to control broadleaf weeds in well-established warm- or cool-season lawns with a post-emergent broadleaf weed killer. Don't apply to seedling fescue. (HLA-6420)
- Mow and edge neatly before killing frost.
- Clean up marginal water garden plants after first frost kills the tops.

- Place a net over the water garden to prevent leaves from falling in the water.
- Remove diseased plant material from the landscape to reduce disease problems next year.

## November

- Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs, pansies, ornamental kale, ornamental cabbage and other cool-season annuals.
- In the first week of November, fertilize cool-season grasses again. (HLA-6420)
- Continue mowing cool-season lawns on a regular basis. (HLA-6420)
- Remove leaves from cool-season grasses or mow with a mulching mower. (HLA-6420)
- Continue to control broadleaf weeds in well-established warm- or cool-season lawns with a post-emergent broadleaf weed killer. (HLA-6420)
- Now is a good time for a soil test to correct nutrient deficiencies before winter.
- Dispose of pinecones infested with Diplodia tip blight. Prune out dead tips. Fallen needles of pines infested with Dothistroma needle blight should be removed from the ground and discarded in the trash to reduce inoculum.
- Compost annual debris and leaves, but do not compost diseased plant parts.
- Nov. 15 to March 15 is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs. Do not prune spring-flowering plants until after they flower in the spring. (HLA-6409)
- Prepare the landscape for winter. (HLA-6404)
- Scale insects and other overwintering insects can be controlled with dormant oil sprays applied when the temperature is above 40 F in late fall and winter. Do not use "dormant" oils on evergreens. (EPP-7306)
- Drain gasoline from power equipment or use fuel stabilizer before winter storage. Drain and store water hoses, drain water from spray equipment and wrap hydrants. Clean all tools. Coat metal surfaces with a thin film of oil to prevent rust.
- Remove diseased plant material from the landscape to reduce disease problems next year.

## December

- Continue mowing cool-season lawns on a regular basis. (HLA-6420)
- Remove fallen leaves from cool-season grasses or mow with a mulching mower. (HLA-6420)
- Continue to control broadleaf weeds in well-established warm- or cool-season lawns with a post-emergent broadleaf weed killer. (HLA-6420)
- If soil is dry, irrigate all plantings at least 24 hours before hard-freezing weather. (HLA-6404)
- Review the year's schedule and make plans for next year's improvements.

Index of OSU Extension publications listed as references for this publication:

[HLA-6403 – Roses in Oklahoma](#)  
[HLA-6404 – Winter Protection of Landscape Plants](#)  
[HLA-6409 – Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs](#)  
[HLA-6412 – Fertilizing Shade and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs](#)  
[HLA-6414 – Planting Shade Trees and Shrubs](#)  
[HLA-6415 – Training Young Shade and Ornamental Trees](#)  
[HLA-6419 – Establishing a Lawn in Oklahoma](#)  
[HLA-6420 – Lawn Management in Oklahoma](#)  
[HLA-6430 – Landscaping to Attract Butterflies, Moths, and Skippers](#)  
[HLA-6445 – Smart Irrigation Technology: Controllers and Sensors](#)  
[HLA-6446 – Augmentation Biological Control Practices for the Home Landscape](#)  
[HLA-6447 – Conservation Biological Control for the Home Landscape](#)  
[HLA-6604 – Thatch Management in Lawns](#)  
[HLA-6608 – Managing Turfgrass in the Shade in Oklahoma](#)  
[HLA-6610 – Simple Irrigation Audit for Home Lawns in Oklahoma](#)  
[HLA-6614 – Lawn Care Safety and Basic Maintenance Tips for Teens](#)  
[HLA-6615 – Simple Irrigation Checkup for Home Sprinkler Systems](#)  
[HLA-6617 – Managing Pressure in the Home Irrigation System](#)

[L-429 – Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) for the Home Landscape](#)  
[L-432 – Seasonal Landscape Maintenance](#)  
[L-434 – Irrigation](#)  
[L-437 – Turfgrass Management in Oklahoma](#)  
[L-441 – Bermudagrass Lawn Management Calendar](#)  
[L-442 – Cool-Season Lawn Management Calendar](#)  
[L-444 – Lawn Watering Tips](#)  
[EPP-7168 – Plant Galls Caused by Insects and Mites](#)  
[EPP-7306 – Ornamental and Lawn Pest Control for Homeowners](#)  
[EPP-7322 – Grasshopper Control in Gardens and Landscapes](#)  
[EPP-7324 – Large Patch \(Zoysia Patch\) of Warm-Season Turfgrasses](#)  
[EPP-7329 – Rose Rosette Disease](#)  
[EPP-7607 – Diseases of Roses](#)  
[EPP-7611 – Cedar-Apple Rust](#)  
[EPP-7617 – Powdery Mildews of Ornamentals & Fruit, Shade and Nut Trees](#)  
[EPP-7634 – Anthracnose & Other Common Leaf Diseases of Deciduous Shade Trees](#)  
[EPP-7645 – Nantucket Pine Tip Moth](#)  
[EPP-7652 – Non-Chemical Methods for Controlling Diseases in the Home Landscape and Garden](#)  
[EPP-7658 – Dollar Spot of Turfgrass](#)  
[EPP-7665 – Spring Dead Spot of Bermudagrass](#)  
[EPP-7674 – Pine Wilt Disease](#)



# **The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service**

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Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources and environment; family and consumer sciences; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of the Cooperative Extension system are:

- The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.
- It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.
- Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and research-based information.
- It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.
- It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.
- More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.
- It dispenses no funds to the public.
- It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.
- Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.
- The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.
- Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 20 cents per copy. Revised 04/2021 GH.