

# Native Landscape Maintenance Schedule

## January

- During winter drought periods, water newly planted trees and shrubs, etc.
- Check that gardening tools and equipment are in good repair—sharpen and repair mowers, edgers, sprayers, garden hoses, hand tools, saws, etc. especially evergreens. Tree bags work well when temps are above freezing. Double check moisture in raised planters.
- Check on supplies of materials such as fertilizer, herbicide, garden equipment,
- Inspect your irrigation system and replace worn or broken parts.

## February

- Prepare mowers for use. Clean air filters, new fuel, oil & filter change, perhaps tune-up, etc.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs as needed.
- Finish pruning shade trees, summer flowering shrubs, and hedges. Spring blooming shrubs such as lilac and forsythia may be pruned immediately after flowering.
- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or early March.
- Pre-emergent crabgrass control herbicide can still be applied to cool season turfgrass.

## March

- Cultivate flower beds to destroy winter weeds.
- Apply shredded bark mulch to tree/shrub beds and ground leaf compost to flower beds to control weeds and reduce need for watering.
- Divide and replant summer and fall blooming perennials.

## April

- Begin planting native perennials and grasses.
- Replace mulch which has been washed out with spring rains. Smooth mulch layer if it has been disturbed.
- Prune out any winter-damaged branches or plants that have not begun to grow by late April.

## May

- Sweep or blow clean all walkways and curbs on a weekly basis.
- Nutsedge become visible during this month. Apply Sedge-Hammer this month.
- Plant perennials and grasses in early May.
- Water new transplants and newly planted shrubs and trees 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.
- Cultivate and mulch. Mulching will reduce about 70 percent of the summer yard maintenance.
- Continue to water new plantings deeply as needed. Apply at least one inch of water each time.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root if propagated in a moist shady spot.

## July

- Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought. Continue watering young plantings.
- Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.

## August

- Water all key planting areas thoroughly unless rainfall has been adequate.
- Check plants for signs of water stress, nutrient deficiency or disease.
- Divide and replant spring blooming perennials.
- Hedges and shrubs can be pruned, if necessary, about mid-August.
- Young trees and shrubs may be fertilized again.

## September

- Check plants for signs of water stress, nutrient deficiency or disease.

## October

- Pine trees are most successfully planted in fall. Broadleaf evergreens or bare-root plants are best planted in the spring.
- Scout property for invasive bush honeysuckle. Leaves are bright yellow with red berries in Oct.
- Remove leaves and litter from parking lots and turf areas or mow with mulching mower.
- Prune back any groundcover overhanging curbs or sidewalks.

## November

- Remove leaves from cool-season grasses or mow with a mulching mower.
- Remove autumn leaves from tree, shrub, and flower beds.
- Now is a good time for a soil test to correct nutrient deficiencies before winter.
- Dispose of pine cones from diseased pines.
- November 15 to March 15 is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs. Remove conflicting and crowded branches, dead limbs, double-leaders and unsightly branches.
- Drain gasoline from power equipment or use fuel stabilizer before winter storage. Drain and store water hoses. Clean up all tools.
- Remove diseased plant material from the landscape to reduce disease problems next year.

## December

- Review the year's schedule and make plans for next year's improvements.
- Prune any tree branches in parking lots and sidewalks that interfere with public safety.
- Continue with leaf removal if needed.
- Continue pruning trees and shrubs.