

SPRING CLEAN-UP & WATERING

EARLY SPRING CLEAN – UP

March is notoriously unpredictable. Shrubs can be crusty with snow on the first of the month, and then, a couple of weeks later, temperatures can warm up enough for flower and leaf buds to show signs of life.

Trees and Shrubs

- Remove any burlap, winter tree wraps and covers from trees and shrubs
- Prune away dead and damaged branches on trees and shrubs. It is preferable to use and pruners or handsaw for larger branches rather than an electric pruner. For shaping or cutting back hedges or shrubs, be sure to prune to an intersecting branch. Prune summer flowering shrubs, such as Rose of Sharon, but wait to prune spring flowering shrubs, such as Lilac, until after they flower.

Perennials and Grasses

- Prune back perennials to 4-5" and grasses to 2-3". This allows sunlight to reach the roots and allow new growth to shoot up.

Roses

- Cut back blackened canes 1" below blackened area.

LATE SPRING CLEAN – UP

Late April to Early May - Perennials

- Where soil has thawed, dig up perennials, such as daylilies and hostas, to thin crowded beds; divide them, leaving at least three stems per clump, and transplant them to fill in sparse areas.
- On climbers, keep younger green canes and remove older woody ones; neaten them up by bending the canes horizontally and tipping the buds downward. Use jute twine or gentle Velcro fasteners to hold the canes in place.
- Pull up spent annuals and compost.
- Check for any additional dieback on trees, shrubs and roses. Prune to just below dieback.

May - General Clean – up Tips

- Rake up all debris out of beds. If you are planning to mulch or top-dress your beds, include 1" of mulch in your debris. Mulch thickness should be 2-3" thick.

- Fertilize plants with a slow release granular fertilizer. The spring rains will carry to the root zone.
- Bulbs - Add a 5-10-10 fertilizer around bulbs as soon as they flower to maximize bloom time and feed next season's growth.
- Garden Beds - Use pins to fasten drip irrigation lines that have come loose and a square-head shovel to give beds a clean edge.

Lawn & Turf Clean - Up

EARLY SPRING – March - April

- Get your Lawn Mower Ready. Now is the time to tune up your mower. Change the Oil, sharpen the blade. Lubricate any moving parts. Install a new spark plug. Clean off any old dirt, clippings or spills. Clean up any downed branches or twigs.
- Mow High. Set your mower at the right height for your grass type, mowing as high as possible to encourage a thick, full lawn.
- Apply a Pre-Emergent Weed Control, after the first mowing. This will help prevent crabgrass and other early broadleaves from taking hold in your Lawn.

LATE SPRING - May

- Repair Bare Spots. Rake out old thatch, spread new soil, and fresh seed. Water Daily.
- Overseed the Lawn. Overseed your lawn with fresh seed, and apply a Starter Fertilizer.
- Spot Treat for Dandelions.
- Apply Grub Control
- Water regularly.