

MWR LAWN CARE/LANDSCAPE CALENDAR

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY:

- Leave your lawn alone but prevent fallen leaves from piling up.
- OK to spread 19-5-9 or Scott's Winterizer if you missed Dec application.
- OK to mow (not lower than 3") if warmer than usual temps/rain have caused growth.
- Spray Dormant Oil or Insecticidal Soap on plants and shrubs.
- Prune your shrubs and small trees. **The AHS has a Pole Pruner for rent.** Understand the difference between trimming and pruning!
- If you can't bear to stay inside, get a head-start on mulching/edging flower beds
- Mower maintenance... oil change, air filter(s), fuel filter, plug(s), grease fittings, and scrape old grass/debris from underneath deck. **Hobby Shop has an ATV lift for riding mowers**
- Sharpen mower blade(s)... **come to Hobby Shop, we will show you how.**

MARCH:

- Spring cleanup (leaves, sticks and debris) once weather starts to turn.
- Edge lawn and add mulch or turn over mulch in bedding areas. **AHS has an edger too!**
- Use selective herbicides for late winter/early spring weed crop (or just be patient... they'll die all by themselves when the weather gets warmer)
- "Roundup" application in bedding areas (continue monthly or as necessary thru the year)
- Lawn fertilizer with crabgrass pre-emergent when soil temps are @ 2" depth and temperatures are between 50-55 for a few days and are not expected to fall.
- Begin mowing lawn when it starts to grow. OK to keep mower at 3" this time of year. **The AHS has two bagging mowers... one with electric start.**
- If you are spreading any lawn seed (not recommended this time of year), do not use any herbicidal products (including the crab grass pre-emergent) in same area.

APRIL:

- Increase mower height to 3-1/2" minimum. Mow weekly or as necessary throughout the year. Alternate mowing patterns. Thick lawns should be bagged. Thinner lawns need some thatch buildup. Mulching lawn not practical in spring (too much grass unless you have a \$20,000 golf course mower. **AHS has one of those too... only kidding**)
- Spray shrubs, hedges and ornamentals for scale/disease/fungus/insect. Continue at proper interval with general purpose products (maintenance) or do your research to determine best course of action for a particular disease or infestation

- Broadleaf weed control as necessary (recommend product that does not use fertilizer as the medium for the herbicide)... depending on success of treatment and expectations, you may do this several times per season but not more often than permitted in the product's instructions. What type of weeds do I have and what is best agent for control? Do your research! Internet and commercial landscape supply houses are best sources of info. Cut down dead daffodils after they turn brown.

MAY:

- Depending upon weather, start thinking about watering lawn so that it receives 1-2" of water per week. If normal spring temps and rainfall, probably no need to water until things dry out some...
- If lawn color starts to fade a bit, it indicates nitrogen deficiency. Apply 19-5-9 or similar ratio fertilizer. Conventional wisdom is that you fertilize a fescue/hybrid lawn in May and June but it is the wisdom of the people selling the fertilizer... I generally do not recommend fertilizing fescue/hybrid lawns in spring.
- Trim new growth from mature hedges and shrubs. Understand difference between trimming and pruning and why too much trimming leads to unnatural growth
- Late in the month, fertilize hedges, shrubs and ornamentals with "HollyTone" for increased blooming next fall/spring
- Cut down dead tulips after they turn brown
- **Have a long bike ride on one of MWR's brand new mountain bikes before it get's too hot!**

JUNE:

- Lawn insect treatment
- **Play a round of golf with a set of MWR's golf clubs!!!**

JULY:

- If conditions are very hot and dry, consider increasing duration of watering, increasing mower height, and increasing mowing interval.
- **Take a camping trip with one of MWR's pop-up camping trailers.**

AUGUST:

- Second lawn insect treatment if necessary
- Start planning Sept lawn renovation... Are there areas of lawn you wish to kill?
- Any depressions to be filled or grading to be done? **Reserve power equipment at MWR X2279**, get watering apparatus ready, and consider the use of timers to keep seed moist, arrange for pickup/delivery of topdressing or fill material if needed. Budget for/purchase supplies and materials needed. Calibrate your spreader and measure (approx) your square footage so you can apply products at correct rate.
- **Don't forget MWR's Coast Guard Day celebration the first Saturday in August**

SEPTEMBER:

- Lawn renovation (De-thatch, Mow short and remove debris, Aerate, sow seed and spread starter fertilizer. Keep seed consistently moist; do not mow for 3 weeks.
- **Enjoy the cooler weather and consider taking an MWR adventure trip!**

OCTOBER:

- 19-5-9 (or similar ratio) lawn fertilizer application (4 or 5 weeks after germination of new seed.
- Start picking up leaves from the lawn. OK to let leaves lay in bedding areas for winter. Leaves left to pile up on new grass seedlings will kill them. Depending on weather, peak of leaf season is not until Thanksgiving. Best method of leaf pickup is to mow lawn with bagger or blow leaves onto tarp for disposal. **MWR has gas and electric leaf blowers**

NOVEMBER:

- Continue mowing and lawn leaf pickup as necessary
- Winterize well head and pump
- Cut down to ground level and heavily mulch perennial ornamentals (Hibiscus, Lantana, Oleanders) that do not winter over well
- Dig up bulbs that require thinning out
- Dig up bulbs that do not winter over before first frost.
- Plough in vegetable gardens
- Erect burlap windscreens around shrubs that you wish to protect
- Late in the month, fertilize hedges, shrubs and ornamentals with "HollyTone" for increased blooming next spring/fall
- Continue mowing and lawn leaf pickup as necessary
- **Split up that load of firewood for winter with MWR's new 22 Ton convertible log splitter**

DECEMBER:

- Continue mowing and lawn leaf pickup
- 19-5-9 (or similar ratio) lawn fertilizer application (5 or 6 weeks after last one).
- **Don't forget to sign up for TCY's Christmas party!**