

Spring 2016

Recap of Winter Maintenance Program

January

- Spot sprayed Fescue turf for weeds
- Annuals: Fertilized twice and maintained beds weekly
- Began winter pruning of grasses, shrubs and trees
- Continued cleaning up leaves
- Continued spraying bed weeds and hardscaping (weeds growing in cracks and edges of sidewalks, etc.)
- Began taking soil samples

February

- Continued with pruning of grasses, shrubs and trees
- Continued fertilizing annuals twice a month and maintaining flower beds weekly
- Continued bed and hardscaping weed control
- Began first round of pre-emergent herbicide on Fescue turf (granular application) 15-0-5
- Provided proposals for lime applications (based on soil sample results)

March

- Began mowing Fescue turf
- Completed pruning of grasses, shrubs, and trees
- Continued annual flower care schedule
- Continued bed and hardscaping weed control
- Treated trees and shrubs susceptible to Japanese beetles with systemic insecticide
- Began spring application of granular pre-emergent for Bermuda grass. 0-0-7
- Began the second round of pre-em on Fescue turf going into April depending on first round timing. (Granular application) 5-0-10
- Spot sprayed late winter turf weeds in Fescue and Bermuda
- Began irrigation start-up inspections (where applicable)

Spring Maintenance Program

April

- Continue spraying for turf weeds in Fescue
- Continue applying the liquid pre-emergent herbicide and spraying for existing weeds
- Complete second round of fescue pre-emergent. 5-0-10
- Finish any late winter cutbacks within the first couple weeks
- Perform pre-startup irrigation inspections. Irrigation systems will be charged and any repairs noted before the season begins. This will give us a chance to get any repairs made before irrigation is necessary
- Begin spring flower installation – end of the month
- Continue weekly bed and hardscaping weed control

May

- Complete spring annual flower installation
- Begin mowing Bermuda turf
- Begin alternating weekly bed and hard edging
- Apply first round of fertilizer to Bermuda turf
- Aerate and seed Bermuda (optional)
- Begin shrub pruning. Prune any spring flowering shrubs (azaleas, camellias, etc.)
- Continue weekly bed and hardscaping weed control

June

- Continue shrub pruning
- Continue weekly bed and hardscaping weed control
- Apply second round of fertilizer to Bermuda turf – end of the month
- Spray for any lasting grassy weeds in Bermuda
- Continue mowing Fescue and Bermuda turf
- Shrub and tree installations begin to slow as the temperatures rise; watering contracts are recommended if any shrub planting is necessary

Get your Irrigation system up and running for the growing season

If you haven't done so already, now is the time to do the spring startup of your irrigation system. Sometimes this can be a daunting task: Installing a backflow, adjusting heads, checking for leaks... If this doesn't sound like your cup of tea, have your friendly neighborhood irrigation company do it for you. Rainmaker is the way to go for your irrigation startups, annual system maintenance programs, and backflow certifications. Call them today to have one of their qualified service techs give your irrigation system the TLC it needs.



Triangle Area: (919)550-3952
Wilmington: (910)392-0888

Is your lawn being overrun by weeds?

The best control is having a healthy lawn that can out-compete weeds. You should also monitor your landscape and address pests early on before they become unmanageable. If you are having weed issues, using a combination of physical/mechanical methods (weeding and hand pulling) and chemical management is a good practice to follow. When using pesticides, the key is to follow the directions on the label. A selective herbicide can damage your lawn if applied incorrectly or at a rate higher than recommended.

Now is the perfect time to mulch your landscape!


Reasons to Mulch

- Moisture retention in the soil
- Suppresses weed growth
- Helps regulate temperatures in the soil
- As some mulches break down, they add organic matter and fertility to the soil
- Can improve soil aeration and drainage over time
- Can inhibit certain plant diseases

Dos and Don'ts

- We recommend applying a 2-3 inch layer evenly in your plant beds. Applying too much can lead to excess moisture in the soil, causing fungal issues and root rot.
- Make sure you keep the mulch away from the trunk or stem of trees and shrubs. Piling up mulch around the base of the plant makes it harder for the plant to "breathe", which will stress the plant and invite insect and disease issues.
- Be mindful of using certain mulches that might be harmful to some pets (ie- synthetic mulch, cocoa hulls)


A Few Options to Choose From




Hardwood



Pine straw



Pine Bark



Cedar

Plants to try in your garden this year

ENDURASCAPE™ 'RED' VERBENA- This hardy landscape verbena beats them all for summer production. It takes the heat and stays in flower longer! Its vibrant color and superior branching create a full habit bursting with blooms—ready to brighten any garden.



'LOVE AND WISHES' SALVIA- Deep Purple flowers cover these tough plants from early spring to frost. Like her cousin Wendy's Wish Salvia, this Salvia will form a ball of color in your yard, with no pruning or deadheading.

'BIG DADDY' HYDRANGEA- Pink in alkaline soils and blue in acidic soils, Big Daddy's huge blooms are as big as balloons at a child's birthday party. Perfect for flower arrangements.



CHEF'S CHOICE® ROSEMARY- An outstanding new Rosemary specially selected for its higher oil content and spicy flavor. With a compact, mounding habit, this is the Rosemary of choice for container, herb, and kitchen gardens.

Plant details provided by www.southernlivingplants.com