Landscape Maintenance Schedule

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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets are also available on our website at:
http://osufacts.okstate.edu

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

HLA-6004 - Oklahoma Garden Planning Guide
HLA-6009 - Fall Gardening
HLA-6403 - Rose Culture 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-6421 - Controlling Weeds in Home Lawns
HLA-6604 - Thatch Management in Lawns
EPP-7168 - Plant Galls Caused by Insects
EPP-7306 - Ornamental and Lawn Pest Control
EPP-7319 - Home Tree Fruit Production and Pest Management
EPP-7607 - Diseases of Roses
EPP-7611 - Cedar-Apple Rust
EPP-7615 - Pest Management Series - Fire Blight of Fruit Trees and Certain Ornamentals
EPP-7617 - Powdery Mildews of Ornamentals & Fruit, Shade & Nut Trees
EPP-7618 - Common Diseases of Conifers in Oklahoma
EPP-7634 - Anthracnose & Other Common Leaf Diseases of Deciduous Shade Trees
EPP-7658 - Dollar Spot of Turfgrass
EPP-7665 - Managing Spring Dead Spot Disease of Bermudagrass in Oklahoma

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

January

- If precipitation has been deficient (1" of snow = ~1/10" of water), water lawns, trees, and shrubs, especially broadleaf and narrowleaf evergreens. Double check moisture in protected or raised planters.
- Check on supplies of pesticides. Secure a copy of current recommendations and post them in a convenient place. Dilution and quantity tables are also useful.
- If you did not treat young pines for tip borers in November, do so before March.
- Check that gardening tools and equipment are in good repair—sharpen, paint, and repair mowers, edgers, sprayers, and dusters.
- Inspect your irrigation system and replace worn or broken parts.
- 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)
- A product containing glyphosate plus a postemergent broadleaf herbicide can be used on dormant bermuda in January or February when temperatures are above 50°F for winter weed control. (HLA-6421)

February

- Base any fertilizer application on a soil test. For directions, contact your county Extension Educator.
- Fertilize ornamental, fruit, and nut trees and shrubs, annually. (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-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or early-March. (HLA-6414)
- Apply first pre-emergent summer annual herbicide to turf areas from February to mid-March.
- Begin the vegetable garden with cool-season crops such as potatoes, onion, and radishes. (HLA-6004)
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (EPP-7306)
- Spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide for prevention of peach leaf curl before bud swell. (EPP-7319)

- A product containing glyphosate plus a broadleaf herbicide can be used on dormant bermuda in January or February when temperatures are above 50°F for winter weed control. (HLA-6421)
- 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-6421). Heed label cautions when using any weed killers near or in the root zone of desirable plantings.

March

- Prepare lawn mower; install clean filters.
- Cultivate annual flower beds to destroy winter weeds.
- Apply organic mulch to control weeds in beds. Landscape fabric barrier can reduce the amount of mulch but care should be taken to ensure proper water penetration to plants' roots.
- 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 required per year, in March, May, October, and November. (HLA-6420)
- Broadleaf weeds can easily be controlled in cool-season lawns at this time with post-emergent broadleaf herbicides. (HLA-6421)
- Begin mowing cool season grasses at 1 1/2 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 & EPP-7306)
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (EPP-7306)
- The 1st generation of Nantucket Pine Tip Moth appears at this time. Begin pesticide applications in late-March based on pheremone catches. EPP-7306)
- Anthracnose control on sycamore, maple, and oak 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 don't require chemical applications. (HLA-6403 & EPP-7607)
- Divide and replant summer and fall blooming perennials. Mow or cut back old liriope and other ornamental grass foliage.

April

- Control cedar-apple rust. When the orange jelly galls are visible on juniper (cedar), begin treating apple and crabapple trees with a fungicide. Treat hawthorns accordingly. (EPP-7611)
- Fire blight bacterial disease can be controlled at this time. Plant disease-resistant varieties to avoid diseases. (EPP-7615)
- Diplodia tip blight fungicide applications at bud break.
- Control of powdery mildew disease can be done with early detection and regular treatment. 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 can be applied.
- Warm-season grass lawns can be established beginning in late-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 sq. ft. in each application. Apply one pound in April, May, June, August and September for a high quality lawn. Water in nitrate fertilizers. (HLA-6420)
- Mowing of warm-season lawns can begin now. Cutting height for bermuda and zoysia should be 1 to 1 1/2 inches high. Mow buffalo at 3 inches high. (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)
- Be alert for both insect pests and predators. Some pests can be hand picked without using a pesticide. Do not spray 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.

May

- Insect Alert: (EPP-7306)
  * Bagworms on juniper and arborvitae. (Late-May)
  * Elm leaf beetles and larvae on elms and zelkova. (Late-May)
  * Mimosa webworms on mimosa and honeylocust.
  * Lace bugs on sycamore, pyracantha, and azalea.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed in mid-May. (EPP-7618)
- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again. 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 is present to promote winter hardiness.
- Dollar spot disease of lawns can first become visible in mid-May. Make certain fertilizer applications have been adequate before ever applying a fungicide. (EPP-7658)

- Nutsedge plants become visible during this month. Post-emergent treatments are best applied for the first time this month (HLA-6421). Make certain warm-season grasses have completed green-up.
- The second application of pre-emergent annual grass herbicides can be applied in late-May or early-June depending upon timing of first application. Check label for details. (HLA-6421)
- 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 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. Add spider mites to the list. 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 1st generation fall webworm. (EPP-7306)
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed again in mid-June. (EPP-7618)
- Cultivate and mulch. Mulching will reduce about 70 percent of the summer yard maintenance.
- Fertilize warm season grasses as per April instructions.
- Dollar spot disease of lawns can first become visible in mid-May. 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 be a problem. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- Post-emergent control of crabgrass and summer annual grasses is best performed on young crabgrass plants. (HLA-6421)
- Continue to water 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

- Divide and replant crowded hybrid iris (bearded iris) after flowering until August.
- Apply preventative white grub treatments—late-June to mid-July (Merit, MachII, GrubX)
- Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought. Water young plantings well.
- Mowing heights for cool-season turf grasses should be 3" during hot, dry summer months. Gradually raise mowing height of bermudagrass lawns from 1 1/2 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. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turf. (HLA-6420)
- Fertilization of warm-season grasses can continue if water is present for growth. (HLA-6420)
- The hotter and drier it gets, the larger the spider mite populations become! Spraying plant foliage 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.
- 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 glyphosate products in early-August. (HLA-6419 & HLA-6421)
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. (EPP-7306)
- Watch for a second generation of fall webworm in late-August/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-6421)

September

- 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 can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. (EPP-7306)
- Continue bermudagrass spray program with glyphosate products for areas being converted to tall fescue this fall. (HLA-6421)
- 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 2nd week of September. Note: Do not treat areas that will be seeded in the fall. (HLA-6421)
- 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, kale, and cabbage.
- Dig and store tender bulbs and tubers in a cool dry place.
- 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-month, 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 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-6421)
- 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, kale, and cabbage.
- In the first week, 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-6421)
- Now is a good time for a soil test to correct nutrient deficiencies before winter.
- Dispose of pine cones of pines infested with Diplodia and Dothistroma. Prune out dead tips. (EPP-7618)
- Compost annual debris and leaves but do not compost diseased plant parts.
- November 15 to March 15 is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs. (HLA-6409)
- Prepare the landscape for winter. (HLA-6404)
- Scale 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 and wrap hydrants. Clean up 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 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-6421)
- 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.

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