





Landscape Maintenance Calendar & Guide

GARDEN TASKS	WATERING Year as Noted 	WEEDING Year as noted 	MULCHING Year 1 thru Long-term 	OTHER TASKS Year 1 thru Long-term 
SPRING: <i>March</i> <i>April</i> <i>May</i>	Year 1 thru Long-term: If unusually hot, dry weather causes plants to wilt, then water like it's SUMMER!	Year 1: Weekly Years 2 – 5: Biweekly Long-term: Monthly Weed well in spring to save time in summer!	Mulch 3–4 inches deep in spring to save weeding and watering time in summer. Remember to pull mulch back from stems to allow plants to breathe! Where ground cover is filling in, add thin layer (dusting) of mulch and broom in.	Pick up trash as needed. Mow lawn regularly to recommended 2 inch mowing height. Use mulching mower to feed soil with grass clippings! Hand pick root weevils & cutworms at midnight in late March.
SUMMER: <i>June</i> <i>July</i> <i>August</i>	See Year 1: Watering Schedule for Summer on reverse. Years 2 – 3: During hot, dry periods, deep water stressed trees & shrubs every 2 weeks and ground covers & flowers every 7–10 days. Long-term: Deep water stressed plants only. Option: Stop watering lawn in summer and allow grass to go dormant. Saves water and mowing time.	Years 1 – 5: Weekly, unless you weeded so well in spring that monthly will do! Long-term: Monthly & as needed	Mulch in spring - or fall or winter!	Pick up trash as needed. Mow lawn to 2 inch height. Option: Stop watering lawn. Mowing is reduced while grass is dormant.
FALL: <i>September</i> <i>October</i>	Year 1 – 5: If rain soaks 12–18 inches deep, relax. If not, deep water plants - especially evergreens – to help plants resist drying from winter sun and wind! Long-term: None usually needed.	Year 1 thru Long-term: Do one thorough weeding and clean up during fall.	Use fall leaves and/or grass clippings to mulch around plants, and keep down winter weeds! Or compost leaves and grass clippings and add in spring.	Pick up trash as needed. Mow lawn to 2 inch height. Rake leaves from lawns.
WINTER: <i>November</i> <i>December</i> <i>January</i> <i>February</i>	Take a break! No need to water in winter.	Years 1 – 5: Monthly & as needed. Adding mulch in fall prevents most winter weeds. Long-term: 1 or 2 times during winter months.	Alternative season for mulching as needed. See also SPRING & FALL.	Pick up trash as needed. Remove dead and broken wood, and suckers at base of trees. Mow lawn to 2 inch height

Watering Tips:

- Water deeply and infrequently, in morning or evening. Water evaporates during midday heat. See Watering on Landscape Maintenance Calendar & Guide.
- Water where roots are: top 12-18 inches of soil for trees, shrubs, ground covers and perennials/annuals, and top 4 -6 inches for lawns.
- Plants are installed with a watering basin or saucer, a small earth berm or donut formed around each plant to hold water at its base. Keep watering basin intact, particularly for the first year!
- Do “pulsed” watering. Water 2 days in a row, or morning & evening on 1 day. Like a damp sponge, already moist soil allows more water to absorb deeper into the ground.
- Drill or poke holes into the bottom of a 5 gallon bucket. Put at the base of a tree or shrub, fill and let drain slowly into soil. Water 5-10 gallons per tree, and 3–5 gallons per shrub.
- Use soaker hoses and spot watering to water planting beds, instead of garden sprinklers and hand spraying. Drip irrigation systems apply water to individual plants and are water efficient but more complicated and expensive to properly design and install.
- Use a timer – either on the hose itself for soaker hoses, or a kitchen timer or stop watch for spot watering.



Mulching Tips:

- Maximize time & water saving benefits of mulching. Maintain 3-4 inch thick mulch layer over all planting beds – but don't bury plants. Burying plants in mulch will rot them!
- One cubic yard of mulch spread 3-4 inches thick covers approximately 100 square feet (10' x 10') of planting bed. Share a truck load or two of mulch and have a “Block Mulching Party.”



Weeding Tips:

- Pull or dig out weed roots – removing weed tops only is “pruning.” Pull weeds when they're small and soil is moist – it's easier!
- Use a sharp pointed trowel or garden fork to loosen soil and dig out weeds. Back tired? Use a long-handled weed puller to yank weeds.



Other Gardening Tips:

- In late March, take a flashlight out into the garden around midnight to literally catch root weevils and cut worms in the act, munching new foliage. Pluck & pinch (or squish) to manually remove the pesky critters!



Typical section natural drainage system plants

PERENNIALS

Gaura
Cranesbill
Sunrose
Daylily
Coral Bells
Purple Palace
Coral Bells
Douglas' Iris
Gladwin Iris
Lavender
Lupine
Crocus



DECIDUOUS TREES

Norwegian Sunset Maple
Pacific Sunset Maple
Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry
Katsura Tree
Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood
Cornelian Cherry
Purple-Leaved Hazelnut
Flame Ash
Ballerina Magnolia
Galaxy Magnolia
Korean Mountain Ash

BROADLEAF EVERGREEN
GROUND COVERS

Kinnikinnik
Rose Queen Epimedium
Kewensis Wintercreeper
Salal
Creeping Mahonia
Sword Fern

DECIDUOUS SCREENING SHRUBS

Vine Maple
Redtwig Dogwood
Yellowtwig Dogwood
Isanti Redtwig Dogwood
Diane Witchhazel
Oakleaf Hydrangea
Belle Etoile Mock Orange
Red-Flowering Currant
Peafruit Rose
Pavement Rugosa Rose
Salmonberry
Blueberry

BROADLEAF
EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Strawberry Tree
Compact Strawberry Tree
White Rockrose
PJM Rhododendron
Evergreen Huckleberry

WETLAND
EMERGENTS

Sedge
Daggerleaf Rush
Arrowhead
Small-Fruited Bulrush
Youth-on-Age

EVERGREEN TREES*

*Very few planted
Hinoki Cypress
Austrian Pine
Japanese Black Pine

LOW DECIDUOUS
SHRUBS

Kelsey's Dwarf Dogwood
Tangerine Potentilla
Snowberry

Year 1: Watering Schedule for Summer

(June – August)

Type of Plant	Amount of Water	Frequency for Year 1
Tree	5 – 10 gallons	Once a Week
Shrub	3 – 5 gallons	Once a Week
Ground Cover	1 – 2 gallons	Once or Twice a Week
Perennial/Annual	½ gallons	Twice a Week
Grass Lawn*	1 inch	Per Week
Type of Plant	Time for Soaker Hose Watering adjust for 12–18 inch penetration	Time for Spot Watering at approx. 2 gallons per minute
Tree	40 - 60 minutes	2.5 – 5 minutes
Shrub	40 - 60 minutes	1.5 – 2.5 minutes
Ground Cover	40 - 60 minutes	0.5 – 1 minute
Perennial/Annual	40 - 60 minutes	15 – 20 seconds
Grass Lawn	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

* Option: Stop watering lawn. Mowing is reduced while grass is dormant.

Some common weeds:

*State-regulated noxious weeds may also be locally regulated. Make efforts to contain, suppress and/or eliminate these weeds. For more information, go to Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board website at www.nwcb.wa.gov

