# Landscape Maintenance Calendar & Guide

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<th>GARDEN TASKS</th>
<th>WATERING</th>
<th>WEEDING</th>
<th>MULCHING</th>
<th>OTHER TASKS</th>
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<td><strong>SPRING:</strong> March April May</td>
<td>Year 1 thru Long-term: If unusually hot, dry weather causes plants to wilt, then water like it's SUMMER!</td>
<td>Year 1: Weekly&lt;br&gt;Years 2 – 5: Biweekly&lt;br&gt;Long-term: Monthly</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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 &amp; cutworms at midnight in late March.</td>
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<td><strong>SUMMER:</strong> June July August</td>
<td>See Year 1: Watering Schedule for Summer on reverse. Years 2 – 3: During hot, dry periods, deep water stressed trees &amp; shrubs every 2 weeks and ground covers &amp; 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.</td>
<td>Years 1 – 5: Weekly, unless you weeded so well in spring that monthly will do! Long-term: Monthly &amp; as needed</td>
<td>Mulch in spring - or fall or winter!</td>
<td>Pick up trash as needed. Mow lawn to 2 inch height. <strong>Option:</strong> Stop watering lawn. <strong>Mowing is reduced while grass is dormant.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FALL:</strong> September October</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Pick up trash as needed. Mow lawn to 2 inch height. Rake leaves from lawns.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WINTER:</strong> November December January February</td>
<td>Take a break! No need to water in winter.</td>
<td>Years 1 – 5: Monthly &amp; 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 &amp; FALL.</td>
<td>Pick up trash as needed. Remove dead and broken wood, and suckers at base of trees. Mow lawn to 2 inch height</td>
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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.
- Do not “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.
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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 weeds. Back tired? Use a long-handled weed puller to yank weeds.
- 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.

Typical section natural drainage system plants

- **DECIDUOUS TREES**
  - Norwegian Sunset Maple
  - Pacific Sunset Maple
  - Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry
  - Katsura Tree
  - Eddie’s White Wonder Dogwood
  - Cornelian Cherry
  - Purple-Leafed Haze
  - Name Tree
  - Barleria Magnolia
  - Oakleaf Magnolia
  - Korean Mountain Ash

- **DECIDUOUS SCREENING SHRUBS**
  - Vine Maple
  - Redtwig Dogwood
  - Yellowtwig Dogwood
  -=isand Redtwig Dogwood
  - Diane Whithead
  - Oakleaf Hydrangea

- **WETLAND EMERGENTS**
  - Sagittaria
  - Creeping Mahonia
  - Sword Fern

- **BROADLEAF EVERGREEN GROUND COVERS**
  - Kinnikinnik
  - Rose Queen Epimedium
  - Kinnikinnik Wintercreeper
  - Salal
  - Creeping Mahonia
  - Sword Fern

- **BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUBS**
  - Strawberry Tree
  - Compact Strawberry Tree
  - White Rockrose
  - Purh Rhododendron
  - Evergreen Hackberry

- **LOW DECIDUOUS SHRUBS**
  - Katsura’s Dwarf Dogwood
  - Tangerine Potentilla
  - Snowberry

- **EVERGREEN TREES**
  - Hinoki Cypress
  - Austrian Pine
  - Japanese Black Pine

Year 1: Watering Schedule for Summer (June – August)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Plant</th>
<th>Amount of Water</th>
<th>Frequency for Year 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>5 – 10 gallons</td>
<td>Once a Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>3 – 5 gallons</td>
<td>Once a Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Cover</td>
<td>1 – 2 gallons</td>
<td>Once or Twice a Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial/Annual</td>
<td>½ gallons</td>
<td>Twice a Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grass Lawn*</td>
<td>1 inch</td>
<td>Per Week</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Soil-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 websites at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov).**

Some common weeds: