

Monthly Gardening Guide



lawns



ornamentals



houseplants



vegetables



prune

January

- ✂️ shade trees, broken limbs, but not 'bleeder trees' (maple, birch, dogwood, elm).
- 🌸 Take hardwood cuttings.
- 🌸 Fertilize spring-flowering bulbs with a balanced fertilizer when 1" of growth is visible.
- 🏠 Most houseplants are semi-dormant, so reduce watering and do not fertilize.
- 🌱 Plan garden.
- 🌱 Select vegetables. Rotate crops to prevent disease.

February

15

- 🌱 Fertilize cool-season lawns (bluegrass/fescues) with 1 lb nitrogen / 1000 square ft.
- ✂️ fruit trees·grapes·summer-flowering shrubs; camellias after flowering.
- ✂️ Remove water sprouts.
- ✂️ Trim ornamental grasses.
- 🌸 See **January**
- 🌸 Plant·transplant·divide summer/fall-blooming species EXCEPT grasses.

March

15

- 🌱 **Deadline to fertilize cool-season lawns.** After this date, fertilizer creates stress.
- ✂️ spring-flowering trees & shrubs after flowering, berry plants while in flower
- ✂️ roses just prior to bud break
- ✂️ winter-damaged branches at the end of the month
- 🌸 Divide late summer- & fall-blooming perennials as the tips emerge, ornamental grasses once in active growth. Wait until fall to plant trees & shrubs.
- 🌸 Sow hardy annuals.
- 🌱 Fertilize when planting. If no soil test, use complete fertilizer like 10-10-10.

April

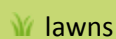
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- 🌱 Seed warm-season lawns (Bermuda, Zoysia)
 - 🌱 Fertilize established warm-season lawns with 1/2–1 lb nitrogen/1000 sq ft several weeks after full greenup. Don't fertilize cool-season lawns.
 - 🌸 established roses Fertilize when new growth is ~ 2" long.
 - 🌸 All plants: don't fertilize too early — new growth is very sensitive to cold damage
 - 🌸 Divide ornamental grasses once in active growth.
 - 🌱 Mulch around growing plants to help prevent weeds and retain soil moisture
 - 🌱 Consider testing soil (no fee Apr–Nov)
- Frost Date +/- 12 days, wait at least 2 weeks to plant tender plants**

May

- 🌱 See **April**.
- ✂️ rhododendron after flowering only if necessary.
- ✂️ hedges as desired (make top narrower than bottom).
- ✂️ water sprouts.
- 🌱 cucumber & Japanese beetles (remove by hand in early AM — drown in soapy water)
- 🌱 Support climbing or tall plants (cucumbers, tomatoes)
- 🌱 Prick out side shoots from indeterminate tomatoes & cucumbers.

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June

- Seed warm-season lawns.
- as in **May** plus below:
- Prune needle evergreens (arborvitae, juniper) in late June, only into new growth.
- Pinch chrysanthemums.
- Remove spent flowers on perennials to encourage rebloom.
- Squash bugs: Remove copper eggs on underside of cucurbit leaves

July

4 15

- [Last chance to seed warm-season lawns.](#)
- bleeder trees (maple, birch, dogwood) if needed
- roses: leggy plants only. Fertilize after pruning.
- hedges as needed.
- blackberries·raspberries canes that bore fruit, prune to ground level
- rhododendron **Do not prune after July 4th.**
- Last month to feed woody plants. Let them rest after this to prepare for fall dormancy.
- Squash vine borer: use registered insecticide or plant earlier & apply fertilizer as side dressing to encourage strong growth

August

15

- Seed cool-season lawns** (Kentucky bluegrass·fescues). Aerate/core first.
- See **July**.

September

15

- Seed cool-season lawns (aerate/core first).
- Fertilize established cool-season lawns** with 1 lb nitrogen per 1000 sq ft.
- dead wood only. Weed and remove brush around trees.
- Cut camellia flowers to enjoy inside.
- Start planting cover crops (winter rye or ryegrass).**

October

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- You can still seed fescue·bluegrass early in October.
- See **September**.
- Plant·transplant most species, & spring-flowering bulbs.
- Divide spring-summer-blooming perennials.
- Add Compost, old manure, or well rotted leaves to improve clay soil
- Use cold frames or fleece to lengthen growing season (kale, chard, spinach)
Frost Date +/- 10 days (Stop planting cover crops)

November

25

- Fertilize cool-season lawns** with 1 lb nitrogen per 1000 sq ft.
- Plant·transplant most species & spring-flowering bulbs.
- Divide spring-summer-blooming perennials.
- Apply lime if soil test indicates it is needed.

December

- Use berry plants in Christmas decorations.
- Plant/transplant trees, shrubs, perennials (except ornamental grasses), spring bulbs.
- Take hardwood cuttings.