



Your Spring Landscape Checklist



As we all stay home to keep ourselves and others healthy, working on your lawn and landscape is a great way to get outside (while still social distancing), release some of that pent-up energy and stress, and get some fresh air and sunshine! We absolutely wish we could be out taking care of your properties for you right now, but until we can get back out to work, we have put together a list of some ways that you can take care of your landscape this spring!

- ❑ **Rake Grass To Prevent Snow Mold:** To help reduce the chance of snow mold (a fungus that can grow under the snow and cause grass roots to rot) gently break up all matted grass patches with a rake.
- ❑ **Spring Clean-Up:** Remove all debris off of your lawn and out of your flower and shrub beds. Debris left on your lawn and in beds can suffocate plants, promote disease, and harbor insects.
- ❑ **First Mow:** A good rule of thumb for mowing is short in the spring, long in the summer. Your first mow should be short, a height of about 1 inch. Then plan to raise your mow height incrementally until it's at 2½-3 inches in summer. Make sure you have a new or sharpened blade for your first mow! You can do your first mow now that the weather has warmed up.
- ❑ **Spring Pruning:** Spring is a great time to prune as it helps keep trees and shrubs healthy and encourages new growth. Specifically, prune fruit trees in early spring to encourage fruit production. Prune roses back after the last frost. Prune any trees and shrubs that suffered winter damage. If you choose to prune yourself, consult the [Sunset Pruning Handbook](#) or YouTube for proper pruning techniques!
- ❑ **Turn On and Inspect Sprinklers:** Once the ground has thawed and temperatures have risen above freezing, it's time to turn your sprinkler system back on. It is very important to do this properly to avoid damaging your system! If you plan to do this yourself, make sure to have a step-by-step guide. Here's one we recommend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDryrV1Ftu8&feature=youtu.be>. If you are worried about doing this yourself, we will be resuming sprinkler turn-ons as soon as possible!
- ❑ **Planting:** Planting a garden, whether flowers or vegetables, is a great project while we are all staying at home! If you are going to plant, make sure you keep an eye on the weather. Either wait to plant outside until the risk of frost has lessened, start plants inside, or if you do want to plant outside now, be prepared to cover plants in case of a late frost!
- ❑ **Start Watering:** We recommend that you start watering your lawn by May 1st. Spring rains will take care of it until then! However, if we have a warm, dry spring, you may need to start watering earlier! Check out our Facebook & Instagram for up-to-date watering tips based on current weather throughout the year!
- ❑ **Aeration:** Core aeration makes your lawn healthier by cultivating stronger roots, reducing soil compaction, plus many more benefits. Aeration can be done in the spring, early summer, or fall. (You can rent an aerator and do this yourself, but as this is not a time-sensitive service, and aeration rentals can be an expensive and time consuming process, we can also do your aeration for you once we open again.) We do **not** recommend power raking as it does more damage than good.
- ❑ **A Note on Fertilizer and Weed Control:** We've had a lot of questions about fertilizer and weed control for lawns with the Stay Home Order being extended. With the current nighttime temperatures, your lawn will be fine to wait a few more weeks for fertilizer and weed control. We are hearing from state officials that the next round of policy changes from the Governor's office will lift current landscape restrictions. Therefore we are preparing to be back to work safely on your properties in the near future. If you have concerns in the meantime, please email us for more specifics regarding your landscape's needs.

If you have any further questions about taking care of your property this spring, email us or contact us on Facebook for the quickest response! You can also call and leave a message, but response times will be longer than normal as we are operating with a limited staff. Thank you! Together we can keep your Landscape Beautiful, Safe, and Green!

