

Maintenance Calendar



How many steps should I do?

Each step depends on your yard, time, and budget. You may want to do some steps multiple times a year if budget and time allows. After your soil conditions improve, steps like aeration and topdressing can be done as needed based on new soil percolation and chemistry tests.



Spring (April-June)

- Prep composting and yard waste area away from waterbodies and wetlands
- Remove weeds and/or start sheet mulching for planting in fall
- Start managing invasives during early growth
- Refresh weed barrier mulch to maintain 3" thickness
- Set up and connect rain barrels to gutter system
- Deadhead and sow seeds from last year's perennial growth once signs of insects, new plant growth, and/or leaf out
- Overseed/sow annuals and perennials
- Sharpen mower blades
- Participate in "No Mow May" or mow to 3", leave clippings
- Take soil percolation and chemistry tests, aerate, and/or topdress with compost based on test results; check compaction where snow was piled
- Water deeply but infrequently in coordination with rainfall

Summer (June-early August)

- Track yard sunlight conditions after leaf out
- Water deeply but infrequently unless in a drought, then follow drought practices
- Mow to 3", leave clippings, unless in a drought
- Continue managing invasives and other unwanted plants

Fall (August-October)

- Follow soil chemistry test results (adjust nutrients & pH)
- Dethatch if necessary
- Aerate to reduce compaction
- Topdress (if organic matter is low in soil test)
- Continue managing invasives and other unwanted plants
- Overseed/sow native perennials, plant shrubs and trees
- Start sheet mulching for planting in spring
- Mow to 3", bag clippings when weed seeds are present and compost
- Water deeply but infrequently in coordination with rainfall
- Consider leaving some leaves on lawn as winter habitat for pollinators; can also mow leaves to mulch bare spots and build up organic matter
- Overwinter garden beds with leaves, straw, or wood chips
- Leave perennial seedheads and stems for overwintering pollinators and wildlife; also adds good visual interest in winter
- Harvest a couple of seedheads for field sowing or transplanting seedlings in spring
- Bring in planters or bury in the ground for insulation
- Disconnect, drain, and turn upside down or bring rain barrels inside

Winter (November-April)

- Prune trees and shrubs while dormant
- Avoid piling snow on lawn/gardens
- Sweep up sand and salt from driveways and walkways
- Keep/collect wood chips from storm damaged trees
- Plan for spring!

