



This checklist breaks backyard maintenance into manageable blocks, so your yard is always ready. Print it, post it in the garage, or keep it on your phone. Tackle what matters each season and enjoy the backyard life.

SPRING	
LAWN CARE	PLANTS & BEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perform routine spring mower maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect tire pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect belts <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect oil <input type="checkbox"/> Sharpen/replace blades <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect deck & pump idler pivots <input type="checkbox"/> Apply pre-emergent (before soil hits 55°F) <input type="checkbox"/> Begin watering lightly (1x/week as growth starts) <input type="checkbox"/> Set mower height ½ in. lower than summer cutting height <input type="checkbox"/> Restart mowing at first sign of active growth <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilize warm-season lawns (light early feeding); cool-season lawns (if not done in fall) <input type="checkbox"/> Refresh mulch or pine straw <input type="checkbox"/> Dethatch warm-season lawns (late spring) <input type="checkbox"/> Aerate warm-season lawns (late spring); cool-season lawns (if not done in fall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Remove winter debris, broken branches, damaged plants <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect irrigation system <input type="checkbox"/> Pull weeds early <input type="checkbox"/> Test soil <input type="checkbox"/> Amend soil (if necessary) <input type="checkbox"/> Till bed soil; add compost or fertilizer <input type="checkbox"/> Redefine bed edges <input type="checkbox"/> Prune & cut back: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Summer-flowering shrubs <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental grasses <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown shrubs (remove no more than 1/3rd of plant) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't prune spring bloomers until after flowering <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm last frost date before planting

SUMMER	
LAWN CARE	PLANTS & BEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mow frequently (never remove more than 1/3rd of grass blade; keep mower height on high end of range) <input type="checkbox"/> Water deeply (1-2x/week, adjust based on rainfall) <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilize warm-season grasses <input type="checkbox"/> Spot-treat weeds with post-emergent (avoid extreme heat) <input type="checkbox"/> Dethatch/aerate warm-season lawns (if not done in spring; early summer only) <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor lawn for stress <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor for disease/fungus (such as brown patch or dollar spot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Treat weeds immediately <input type="checkbox"/> Check irrigation coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Touch up mulch to reduce evaporation <input type="checkbox"/> Deadhead flowers <input type="checkbox"/> Remove suckers and unwanted growth <input type="checkbox"/> Pruning (light trimming/shaping only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreens (only soft green/new growth) <input type="checkbox"/> Trim hedges (keep bottoms wider than tops) <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor for pests and disease, address immediately if spotted



FALL

LAWN CARE

- Apply pre-emergent for winter weeds
- Dethatch & aerate cool-season lawns
- Overseed cool-season lawns
- Fertilize
 - Cool-season lawns (primary feeding)
 - Warm-season lawns (light feeding only)
- Cool-season mowing
 - Up cutting frequency until growth stops
 - Maintain summer height; lower final cut by 1/2 in.
- Warm-season mowing
 - Stop mowing once grass goes dormant
 - Maintain summer height; lower final cut by 1/2 in.
- Mulch or remove leaves
- Reduce watering gradually; stop at dormancy
- Final mulch or pine straw refresh

PLANTS & BEDS

- Remove dead, damaged, or hazardous branches
- Avoid major pruning
- Remove old annuals
- Cut back perennials as needed
- Plant bulbs and cool-season plants
- Add compost to beds
- Refresh mulch
- Water trees and shrubs the day before a hard freeze

WINTER

LAWN CARE

- Stop mowing (unless in warm climate with continued growth)
- Winterize mower
 - Fully clean mower
 - Change oil, spark plugs, air filters
 - Add fuel stabilizer to gas tank
 - Relieve tire pressure slightly
 - Cover with tarp
- Perform routine maintenance on and prep other lawn equipment for storage
- Winterize outdoor faucets and hoses
- Water lawn only during extended warm/dry periods (30+ days)

PLANTS & BEDS

- Protect young or sensitive plants with burlap or wind barriers
- Perform major pruning on dormant trees & shrubs (structural and health pruning only)
- Maintain mulch for insulation
- Avoid traffic on frozen soil or turf

PLANNING

- Review past year's performance—update notes on what worked (or didn't)
- Note problem areas
- Order seed, fertilizer, and materials for next year
- Plan next season's layout/plant additions