

THE BEST OF TIMES



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A TIMETABLE FOR YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN

This chart shows the best time of year to do a particular lawn or garden task. Other "okay" times are listed, too. If there's a time that is not good, it is noted. This is only a guideline. Minnesota's unpredictable weather should always be considered. Check with the friendly experts at Dundee Nursery if you are in doubt.

<u>TASK</u>	<u>BEST TIME</u>	<u>OKAY TIME</u>	<u>NOT NOW</u>
<u>LAWNS</u>			
Fertilize	3 times per year: May, early September, very late October.	Can be done twice in spring (at 6 week interval), but usually not necessary.	Late June through August - too hot!
Aerate	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20	Spring, after lawn has thawed & dried but before heat sets in.	Hot part of summer or late fall.
Dethatch	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20	Spring, same as for aerating.	Same as for aerating.
Apply crabgrass <i>pre</i> -emergent control	About May 1. If spring is very warm, do in late Apr. If cool, do in early May, before 10th.	Second application may be necessary 4-6 weeks after first if crabgrass was bad last year.	Too early in spring or after crabgrass germinates.
Apply crabgrass <i>post</i> -emergent control	Mid to late June, while plants are very young.		Only works if crabgrass is very young.
Apply broadleaf weed control	Late summer - early fall.	Spring, once plants are actively growing.	Too early in spring or when very hot. Never spray when windy or when rain is forecast.
Seed grass	Aug. 15 - Sept. 10.	Spring. Dormant seeding can be done in very late fall.	When very hot - middle of September to late October.
Sod grass	After spring growth starts and soil warms.	Just about anytime during the growing season if watering is consistent.	Not later than October.

TREES & SHRUBS

Fertilize	Spring through July 4th	Late fall when plant is dormant.	July - early fall.
Prune	See Dundee Fact Sheet "PRUNING GUIDE - TIMING" for specifics. In general, shrubs that flower in spring should be pruned right after flowering. Shrubs that flower in summer/fall should be pruned in the spring before they leaf out.		
Plant bareroot trees or shrubs	Spring, until about June 1.		After about June 1.
Plant container-grown or balled & burlapped trees or shrubs	Spring or early fall.	Can be very successfully planted any time during the growing season, including mid-summer. Do not plant evergreens after about October 10th.	
Transplant	Early fall.	Spring, before growth starts.	Hot part of summer.
Wrap young tree trunks	Late October through mid-late April.		Don't leave tree wrap on during summer.
Stake	First growing season after planting. Only needed if site is particularly windy.		After first season, trees get brittle if staked too long.

<u>TASK</u>	<u>BEST TIME</u>	<u>OKAY TIME</u>	<u>NOT NOW</u>
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GARDENS

Plant	Some plants (i.e., pansies, broccoli, onions, spinach, radishes, etc.) are cold tolerant and can be planted in mid to late April. Most should be planted after last frost (usually around May 15 in the Twin Cities). Some (such as peppers and tomatoes) are quite sensitive and should not be planted until about June 1. Many plants can be started indoors earlier. See the Dundee "Spring Garden Guide" Fact Sheet.		
Transplant Perennials	Spring for late-season bloomers. Early fall for spring bloomers.		Hot part of summer.
Fertilize Perennial Beds	Spring	Late fall.	Summer - early fall.
Uncover Roses and Perennials	Using spring weather as a guide, remove mulch in stages. All mulch shouldn't be removed until late April-early May. Rose cones and/or heavy mulch should be removed when weather is warm in early spring to avoid disease problems. Fluff up remaining mulch to increase air circulation.		
Prune Roses	Major pruning in spring after uncovering.	Minor pruning can be done if necessary when roses are covered in fall.	Late summer - early fall.

WATERING

Lawns	Newly seeded or sodded lawns need consistent, frequent watering. Established lawns need the equivalent of 1" per week. It's best to water deeply, but space watering out. Do not lightly sprinkle established lawns every day.		Do not water so late in the day that the grass stays wet after dark.
Gardens	Early in the day.		Do not water so late in the day that the plants stay wet after dark.
Trees and shrubs	Newly planted bareroot plants need frequent watering (possibly every day, depending on weather and soil conditions) for the first few weeks. Slowly back off as the plant establishes. Newly planted container-grown or balled and burlapped plants should not need daily watering unless their root system is quite small, the ground is quite sandy, or the weather is very hot and windy. In most cases, watering about every 3-7 days for the first few weeks is recommended. Always check the soil before watering. More plants die due to overwatering than underwatering. Back off on the watering as the plant becomes established. Established plants need about 1" per week. Water deciduous plants less in the fall but continue to water evergreens until the ground freezes (about December 15 in the Twin Cities area).		