



SEASONAL JOBS IN THE GARDEN

Spring

March:

- Loosen mulch around protected perennials but don't remove until average last frost date passes. Average last frost date ranges from early to late spring in Spokane County. Check your dates on [Washington Last Average Frost Date Map](#).
- Don't work soil while it is wet.
- Prune evergreen shrubs, such as juniper and yew, in late March or early April before new growth begins.

April:

- Cultivate beds as soon as soil is dry enough to work. Mix in a few inches of organic matter.
- Plant cold hardy plants
- Pest season starts as plants grow, keep watch.

May:

- Pinch mums, asters and other leggy perennials.
- Start removing protective mulches but be prepared to cover frost-tender plants.
- Divide summer and fall blooming perennials before new growth is 6" high.
- Set out new perennial plants.
- Cut spring blooming perennials back to 3" high when they have finished blooming.
- Fertilize established perennials and lawns.
- Don't let your beds dry out. Water if needed.

Summer

June:

- Mulch beds to conserve moisture.
- Keep checking for pests and diseases.
- Keep weeds under control.
- Fertilize perennials to encourage flowering and strong growth.
- Water regularly, including trees.
- Wait until the foliage on bulbs has yellowed and dried before you cut them back.

July:

- Deadhead perennials to prolong bloom and improve appearance of plants. Many plants will bloom a second time.
- Check plants frequently for water needs.
- Plant cool season plants
- Continue to keep weeds under control.
- Keep checking for pests and disease.

Visit our website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/spokane/master-gardener-program/home-lawn-and-garden/>
e-mail your garden questions to: mastergardener@spokanecounty.org

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

C188- Seasonal Jobs in the Garden

August:

- Deadhead and thin crowded perennials, many can be divided when temperatures begin to drop.
- Keep garden mulched and watered, including trees.
- Watch out for mildew, slugs and leaf spot.
- Take cuttings at month's end.

Fall

September:

- Keep after the weeds.
- Water perennials when needed.
- Plant new perennials as soon as possible.
- Dig and divide perennial herbs.

October:

- Continue watering perennials and trees until they are dormant.
- Prepare perennials for winter.
- Clean flower beds and remove debris to eliminate hiding places for over-wintering pests and disease.

November:

- Complete garden cleanup.
- If soil has frozen, mulch your perennials to prevent alternate freezing and thawing of soil, which can damage plants by tearing roots and lifting plant crowns.

Winter

December:

- Cut branches off discarded Christmas tree and loosely pile over perennials for protection from winter burn.

January:

- Buy seeds of annuals, perennials and vegetables that must be started early.
- If weather is mild, check Spray Schedules* for any fruit trees which you may have on your property.

February:

- Start seeds of annuals, perennials & vegetables that must be started early, such as, Aubrietia, Dianthus, Basket-of-Gold, Tomatoes, and Peppers. Start seeds indoors for later transplanting outdoors.
- February through March is generally regarded as the best time to prune most deciduous trees.
- Late February to early April is the best time to prune fruit trees. Pruning should be completed before the fruit trees begin to break bud (leaf out) in early spring.

*Current [Spray Schedules](#) can be found on our website.