

# Maintaining your garden

When you have established your garden, taking care of it is much like taking care of other housework chores, with the added benefit of being outdoors in the fresh air, and the incentive of seeing your hard work come to fruition.

Take a look at the Seasonal Gardening Calendar below, work out what is applicable to your garden, then it's just a matter of allocating time each week to do those tasks. Keep it simple by breaking the job down into tasks to be done daily, weekly, monthly, etc, and your garden will be looking great.

The following Seasonal Gardening Calendar includes some maintenance activities for you to consider undertaking. You can tailor this to suit the climate and particular plants in your garden.

## Seasonal Gardening Calendar

### Spring

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Activity	Description
Plant	Summer and autumn flowering annuals, chrysanthemums and spring bulbs, mangos, lychees, passionfruit, pecans, peaches, citrus and other everyday fruits
Fertilise	Fertilise trees and shrubs (wait until azaleas and rhododendrons have flowered)
Weed	Spot spray weeds in garden beds, pathways, paved areas
Prune	Clip back any wayward shrubs (not late-flowering spring shrubs)
Mulch	Mulch the whole garden in preparation for summer (it insulates plants against the heat)
Water	Water with deep soakings once or twice weekly in preference to daily sprinklings (roots go deeper and are less vulnerable to heat in summer) Consider installing a watering system, check with your local council about using grey water
Rake	Rake up leaves, and old winter debris
Spray	Use sprays to control pests on flowers and vegetables, and a rose gun to control aphids on roses
Roses	Dead-head roses by picking all flowered stems at long-vase length
Lawn	Apply a complete lawn food, then nitrogen once a month until early Autumn.

## Summer

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Activity	Description
Plant	Planting can continue, provided water is available, plan your spring bulb plantings now. In hot areas wait until March to plant. Towards the end of summer, plant and sow annuals and vegetables.
Fertilise	Apply fertilisers or manures if you missed feeding trees, shrubs and roses in spring
Weed	Pull out weeds which can grow aggressively in summer.
Mulch	Mulch the garden well to give plants moisture and protection from the heat
Water	Long soakings early in the morning a couple of times weekly (rather than light daily sprinklings). Give your irrigation systems a complete check.
Spray	Citrus, gardenias, olives, oleanders with white oil to control white wax scale
Roses	Dead-head roses and perennials
Lawn	Light mowing only during summer.

## Autumn

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Activity	Description
Plant	Spring flowering annuals (in March and April), citrus, bulbs, waterlilies, liliams
Weed	Light weeding required
Prune	Flower heads on hydrangeas, fuchsias, geraniums, trim lavender and other small shrubs, impatiens and begonias in frost-free areas, lift and store dahlias, cut back chrysanthemums to encourage strong new growth
Rake	Fallen leaves and throw them in the compost bin or spread them around trees and shrubs
Roses	Clean up dead foliage around roses, renew mulch, remove spent flowers on all perennials
Flowering	Early annuals – pansies, violas, stock, wallflowers, perennials, early bulbs such as jonquils
Lawn	Apply a complete lawn feed.

## Winter

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Activity	Description
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Plant	Roses, deciduous shade trees, container grown plants
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Fertilise	Citrus with citrus food
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Prune	Prune and burn affected parts of citrus (from gall wasp), peaches and nectarines, grapevines, roses, perennials
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Water	Vegetables and annuals with water soluble liquid feeds at fortnightly or 3-weekly intervals
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Rake	Clean up any old citrus fruit on the ground, put fallen flowers or leaves in the compost
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Spray	Citrus with winter spraying oil for scale
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Flowering Camellia and magnolia blooms, berries, daphne, lavender, blossoms

## Gardening Equipment

Finding the right gardening equipment and storing it in an easily accessible place will help you do your garden maintenance jobs quickly and easily. Your gardening equipment requirements will depend on the size of your garden and the level of maintenance it needs.

Below are some of the tools to consider equipping yourself with to maintain your garden. Equipment may be bought, borrowed or hired so think about how often you will need each item before you rush out and buy the lot.

### Equipment List

Implement	Purpose
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D-handled spade	Digging
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Cultivator	Weeding, breaking up soils
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Solid-piece rake	Heavy raking
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Lawn or leaf rake	Light raking
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Mattock	Digging out tough clumps of grasses and weeds
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Shovel	Moving material such as soil, manure, mulch
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