

Beth Young

G A R D E N D E S I G N

XXXXX Residence
July, 2000

Garden Maintenance Checklist

Spring

- Lawn: fertilize in May (see Soil Specs).
- All planting beds: fertilize (see Soil Specs).
- All planting beds: in early spring, add organic material (such as compost, manure, sludge or aged sawdust) to the planting beds to improve the overall health of the plants. The thicker, the better, just mix it in as well as you can without disturbing the roots. This is optional because your soil texture is pretty good as is.
- Soil: Is the soil pH still around 6.5-7.0 in the lawn area and the planting beds around the house? A simple gauge, available at the nursery, can tell you. If the pH is too low, another application of lime is needed in the early spring (see Soil Specifications). Every application should last a few years.
- Orchard: after spring bloom, fertilize fruit trees (see Soil Specs).
- Ajuga: trim off spent ajuga flowers (foliage border).
- Deer ferns (*Blechnum spicant*): if ferns were frost-damaged, cut back dead fronds before new growth emerges (Rhododendron area).
- Clematis: after bloom cut out weak or dead stems (note: do not do this if you buy another variety of Clematis; in that case, follow nursery's instructions).

Summer

- Lawn (optional): fertilize (see Soil Specs).
- Trim spent blooms from daylilies, irises and other perennials around the lawn.
- Cosmos: plant cosmos (an annual that blooms in late summer) from flats in bare spots in the border, as needed.

Fall

- Lawn (optional): fertilize in September (see Soil Specs.)
- Iris: divide only if the clump is getting hollow in the center.
- Lawn: fertilize in November (see Soil Specs.)
- Shasta Daisies: Divide up the clumps every few years (plant extras elsewhere or give to friends)
- Columbine: replace every few years, fall or early spring

Winter

- Lavender: cut back to 6" height
- Ajuga, daylilies, and geranium will probably be dormant (gone) for now. Don't worry (or dig up!); they will appear again in the spring.
- Wisteria: prune by cutting back or thinning out side shoots from main or structural stems and shortening back to 2-3 buds the flower producing spurts that grow from these shoots.