

Low water use and native landscapes require simple maintenance tasks that can change seasonally and even month-to-month.

This calendar provides an overview of monthly and seasonal tasks that will help keep your landscape in good health and support healthy soils. Use this calendar to:

- > Define monthly maintenance activities to include in your landscape partner's contract
- > Identify topics for quarterly planning with your landscape partners
- > Confirm completion of tasks during monthly landscape walks

This calendar provides general seasonal guidance and does not address all site-specific conditions or detailed irrigation maintenance. In southern California's variable climate, timing and methods may shift based on weather and site conditions. Your landscape maintenance partner may adjust activities accordingly. Refer to your Landscape Optimization Service Maintenance Package for more detailed guidance.

Terms to Know







Plant Health Care (PHC) refers to the proactive, holistic maintenance of trees, shrubs, groundcover, and general landscaping. This includes promoting healthy soil, proper watering, site sanitation, pruning and air circulation, and monitoring for pests and disease.



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a science-based, sustainable approach to pest control that focuses on long-term prevention through biological controls, habitat manipulation, and modification of cultural practices. Chemical methods, such as herbicides and pesticides are used only when necessary to minimize risks to people and the environment and should be applied by a specialized and CA-licensed qualified applicator to protect residents and landscape staff.



Seasonal Overview

 Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Minimize watering to utilize rainfall > Regularly inspect rain gardens, basins, and drainage > Avoid major pruning to CA natives
 Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase watering as weather warms > Replenish mulch to a 3-inch depth > Assess and plan re-planting needs
 Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase watering where needed in warmer weather > Prune CA natives per plant requirements > Maintain ornamentals and blooming plants
 Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduce watering as weather cools > Conduct replacement planting > Prepare rain gardens and basins for the rainy season



January

General Landscape:

- Inspect drains for debris that would obstruct flows
- Inspect decomposed granite trails for erosion, areas needing repairs, or compaction
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage areas for erosion, sediment, and debris
- Perform annual planning for Tree Management and Landscape Renovations

Plants:

- Inspect plant material in rain gardens and basins after prolonged rains
- Identify any storm or frost damaged trees and plants
- CA natives** – Remove spent blooms; allow frost-damaged growth to remain until warmer weather returns

February

General Landscape:

- Inspect drains for debris that would obstruct flows
- Inspect decomposed granite trails for erosion, areas needing repairs, or compaction
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage areas for erosion, sediment, and debris

Plants:

- Inspect plant material in rain gardens and basins after prolonged rains
- Identify any storm or frost damaged trees and plants
- CA natives** – Remove spent blooms; allow frost-damaged growth to remain until warmer weather returns

March

General Landscape:

- Inspect drains for debris that would obstruct flows
- Inspect decomposed granite trails for erosion, areas needing repairs, or compaction
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage areas for erosion, sediment, and debris
- Inspect mulch, replenish as needed to maintain a 3-inch depth

Plants:

- Inspect plant material in rain gardens and basins after prolonged rains
- Perform preventive Plant Health Care (PHC)
- Fertilize slopes and planted areas
- Shear groundcovers and grasses
- Conduct Spring planting assessment to identify replacements or removals
- CA natives** – Remove spent blooms and perform light pruning if needed
- Ornamental grasses** – verify a hard shear has been done to promote fresh growth

Quarterly Tasks



Irrigation

- Adjust irrigation for the Spring schedule where weather-based control is not in use (approximately 50% of peak summer demand)
- Inspect for irrigation overspray onto hardscape and adjust spray coverage as needed
- Inspect for leaks and repair or replace damaged irrigation components



Integrated Pest Management

- Inspect plants for pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies based on visible symptoms, and treat issues using Community-approved Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies
 - > **Leaves:** sticky residue, shiny trails, black soot, white powder, foam, rust spots, holes, ragged edges, discoloration, rolling, or deformation
 - > **Stems and trunks:** holes, swelling, oozing, or fungal growth on trunks or around tree bases



April

General Landscape:

- Inspect drains for debris that would obstruct flows
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage areas for erosion, sediment, and debris. Plan for repairs or enhancements as needed
- Inspect decomposed granite trails for erosion, areas needing repairs, or compaction

Plants:

- Fertilize nutrient-demanding plants
- Prune ornamental plant species (e.g., Indian Hawthorn, Mock Orange)
- Ensure invasive turf species such as crabgrass/ Kikuyu are controlled
- Replace frost or storm-damaged plants
- CA natives** – Remove spent blooms and perform light pruning if needed
- Ornamental grasses** – hard prune warm-season grasses (e.g., Muhlenbergia)

May

Plants:

- Divide or transplant succulents as needed and remove spent blooms
- Consider Plant Growth Regulators to reduce fruit production for trees that produce a lot of litter
- CA natives** – Remove spent blooms and perform light pruning if needed
- Ornamental grasses** – monitor and trim seed heads if needed

June

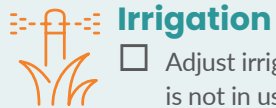
General Landscape:

- Remove leaves and other debris from gutters and downspouts

Plants:

- Prune ornamentals after flowering
- CA natives** – dormancy begins; limit pruning to deadheading only
- Ornamental grasses** – light trimming after growth flush

Quarterly Tasks



Irrigation

- Adjust irrigation for peak summer demand where weather-based control is not in use
- Inspect for irrigation overspray onto hardscape and adjust spray coverage as needed
- Inspect for leaks and repair or replace damaged irrigation components



Integrated Pest Management

- Inspect plants for pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies based on visible symptoms, and treat issues using Community-approved Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies
 - > **Leaves:** sticky residue, shiny trails, black soot, white powder, foam, rust spots, holes, ragged edges, discoloration, rolling, or deformation
 - > **Stems and trunks:** holes, swelling, oozing, or fungal growth on trunks or around tree bases



July

Plants:

- Prune summer-blooming ornamental plants after flowering
- CA natives (dormant)** – avoid pruning during dormancy; remove only deadwood
- Ornamental grasses** – remove spent stalks as needed

August

Plants:

- Remove dead leaves and deadhead ornamental species
- Perform structural pruning on ornamental species
- CA natives (dormant)** – avoid pruning; remove only dead material
- Ornamental grasses** – trim lightly to maintain shape
- Prepare for high wind events by removing debris and staking young trees

September

General Landscape:

- Inspect mulch, replenish as needed to maintain a 3-inch depth
- Assess erosion control needs to prepare for the rainy season
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage before the rainy season
- Prepare for high wind events by removing debris and staking young trees

Plants:

- Plan for fall planting (great time for CA natives)
- CA natives** – begin light pruning; prep for fall planting
- Ornamental grasses** – leave seed heads, begin planning cutbacks

Quarterly Tasks

Irrigation

- Adjust irrigation for peak summer demand where weather-based control is not in use
- Inspect for irrigation overspray onto hardscape and adjust spray coverage as needed
- Inspect for leaks and repair or replace damaged irrigation components



Integrated Pest Management

- Inspect plants for pests, diseases, and nutrient deficiencies based on visible symptoms, and treat issues using Community-approved Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies
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October

General Landscape:

- Assess basins, rain gardens, and drainage before the rainy season
- Complete pre-rainy season erosion control measures
- Prepare for high wind events by removing debris and staking young trees

Plants:

- CA natives** – structural pruning and shaping; rejuvenation month
- Ornamental grasses** – shear down during dormancy

November

General Landscape:

- Inspect drains for debris that would obstruct flows
- Inspect decomposed granite trails for erosion, areas needing repairs, or compaction
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage areas for erosion, sediment, and debris
- Prepare for high wind events by removing debris and staking young trees

Plants:

- Complete all fall planting
- Inspect plant material in rain gardens and basins after prolonged rains
- Identify any storm or frost-damaged trees and plants
- CA natives** – selective pruning of early blooming plants

December

General Landscape:

- Inspect drains for debris that would obstruct flows
- Inspect decomposed granite trails for erosion, areas needing repairs, or compaction
- Inspect basins, rain gardens, and drainage areas for erosion, sediment, and debris

Plants:

- Inspect plant material in rain gardens and basins after prolonged rains
- Identify any storm or frost-damaged trees and plants
- CA natives** – minimal pruning, remove only dead/diseased material

Quarterly Tasks



Irrigation

- Adjust irrigation to winter levels where weather-based control is not in use ($\approx 25\%$ of peak summer demand)
- Inspect for irrigation overspray onto hardscape and adjust spray coverage as needed
- Inspect for leaks and repair or replace damaged irrigation components



Integrated Pest Management

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Additional maintenance and plant-specific guidance can be found in the California Friendly Maintenance Guide.



English version: bewaterwise.com/assets/ca-friendly-maintenance-book.pdf



Spanish version: bewaterwise.com/assets/ca_friendly_maintenance_spa.pdf

Have questions? Contact Us

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WATERSCAPE
REBATE PROGRAM

