

# Garden Care Plan

- March-April  
Spread Corn Gluten in flower and vegetable beds to inhibit weed seed germination.  
Begin clean-up of leaves from shrubs and perennials.  
Clean perennials of dead foliage before first push of new growth.  
Pull weeds before they gain a stronghold.  
Put Plant Tone and Holly Tone around shrubs and evergreens.  
Plants may be sprayed with MaryAnn's Homemade Horticultural Tea for disease and bugs.
- May-June  
Edge flower beds to help keep grass from spreading.  
Prune shrubs and dead wood from trees.  
Azaleas and Rhododendrons may be trimmed immediately after flowering.  
Pull weeds.  
Apply additional mulch as needed.
- June-July  
2<sup>nd</sup> application of Corn Gluten in flower and vegetable beds.  
Maples may be pruned now.  
Dead head roses and perennials.  
Enjoy your garden!
- Aug- September  
Pull weeds.  
Prune long, leggy growth on Japanese Maples.  
Dead head perennials as needed.  
Note: leaving seed heads on perennials allows birds to feed over winter.
- October-November  
3<sup>rd</sup> application of Corn Gluten in flower and vegetable beds.  
Leaves may be left in flower beds as added protection for plants.  
Leaves on lawn can be mulched and left to feed grass.  
Last weeding to be done before season ends.
- December-February  
Enjoy the down time! The fury will return!

## The “Why’s” Answered

- Corn Gluten: Studies have shown that using Corn Gluten helps prevent weed seed germination. There are several times a year when weeds are at their worst and catching them before they mature is very important in having beds that look great all year long. Weeding will still be required, but will be significantly reduced. Can be purchased at Gale’s Garden Center and some feed stores. This product is also a slow release fertilizer. *Note: Do not use in areas where newly sown seeds have been spread.*
- Clean, Sharp Pruners: Helps prevent the spread of disease, especially in Maples. There is soil borne bacteria and laying pruners on the ground or pruning near soil level and then pruning trees and shrubs is a NO NO! Please keep pruners clean. Using *sharp* pruners will give clean cuts on trees and shrubs which prevents disease.
- Plant and Holly Tone: Organic support of strong healthy plants. Not always necessary, but will help with health during the first growing season while plants get established. When plants are strong, they are healthy, disease resistant and bug tolerant.
- Weeding: Keeps flower and vegetable beds looking great. Also helps plants remain healthy by “weeding out” more aggressive growers which will take nutrients from plants you wish to keep as weeds get bigger and bigger. Catching them before they seed is key. I like to keep baskets or small decorative containers throughout the garden so that when I see weeds I pull them and they are immediately contained. On trash day simply empty containers into leaf bags.
- Pine Bark Mulch: The finest in weed prevention. We have used a few varieties of mulch and our experience is that this is the BEST. It is slow to break down and feeds plants as it does. Plant roots require good air circulation as well as good drainage; pine bark does not matt together, thus allowing air and water to efficiently enter the soil. Adding a few bags here and there as needed is key. You’ll never have to use 58 bags in one season again unless you don’t maintain what you have.
- “Little Dragon Torch”: Useful away from plants to maintain edge between grass and flower beds. May be used on walkway and driveway to keep weeds at bay.
- Watering: Protect your investment once a week when rain is limited. Water at least once daily on newly planted shrubs trees and perennials.
- Wrapping Bark: Not an absolute necessity, but helps protect the trunk on trees against severe cold and sun damage in winter, which can cause bark to separate from cambium layer resulting in possible demise of the tree.
- Horticultural Tea: This is a homemade remedy for bugs and disease. It can be sprayed or used in systemic applications. Treatment is all natural and safe around children and pets. May be used in the vegg. patch as well. Although, there is a question of whether or not it changes the flavor of food.
- Repelling Rabbits and Deer: Hot pepper sprinkled around your property (a chore) can help. Citrus peels may be placed in beds to ward off deer. Garlic cloves which have been cut in half may be spread throughout beds to deter both rabbits and deer.