



Southwest Ohio
**Spring Yard
Checklist**

Your complete month-by-month guide to a healthy lawn and landscape – Late February through May

EARLY SPRING YARD CHECKLIST

Start here once daytime temperatures consistently remain above freezing.

Late February - March

Lawn & Yard Cleanup DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove matted leaves, dead grass, and winter debris from lawn	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear fallen branches and storm damage from beds and lawn	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove dead annual plants left from fall	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check for snow mold or disease patches (grayish-white areas)	

Equipment & Tool Preparation DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharpen mower blades	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Change mower oil and air filter; check fuel lines	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Test string trimmer, edger, and blower	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean and sharpen pruning shears and loppers	

Hardscape & Drainage Inspection DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk property and note frost-heave damage to pavers or walkways	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check retaining walls for shifting or gaps	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect drainage areas for erosion or blockage	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Note cracks in concrete that need repair	

Tree & Shrub Pruning DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prune dead or damaged branches on deciduous trees (while dormant)	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth emerges	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prune summer-blooming shrubs (hydrangeas, butterfly bush)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prune roses when buds begin to swell	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do NOT prune spring-blooming shrubs yet (forsythia, lilac, azalea)	

Early Lawn Treatments DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply Round 1 fertilizer + pre-emergent when soil reaches 50-55°F	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Test soil through OSU Extension before fertilizing	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule irrigation system spring startup	

APRIL YARD CHECKLIST

Peak preparation month – soil is workable, planting season is approaching

Lawn Care DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin mowing when grass reaches 2.5–3 inches (soil temp 50–55°F)	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mow at 3 inches – never cut more than 1/3 of blade height	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Core aerate compacted areas (especially clay soils)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Overseed bare or thin patches after aerating	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply broadleaf weed control to actively growing weeds	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply Round 2 fertilizer (6 weeks after Round 1)	
Garden Bed Prep DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pull weeds by the root before they seed	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend soil with 2–3 inches of compost or quality topsoil	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-edge all garden bed borders (4-inch deep clean edge)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply 2–3 inches of mulch after soil warms (late April)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep mulch 2–3 inches away from tree trunks and plant stems	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant hardy perennials: coneflower, black-eyed Susan, daylily, salvia, hostas	
Hardscape Cleanup DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Power wash patios, walkways, and retaining walls	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-level any sunken or shifted pavers	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fill cracks in concrete or mortar joints	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect outdoor lighting for winter damage	
Irrigation System DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Activate system zone by zone – slowly	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk each zone and check heads for damage or misalignment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check all connections and valve boxes for leaks or damage.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Set controller: 1–1.5 inches of water per week, early morning	
Pest & Weed Prevention DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Apply preventive grub control (chlorantraniliprole products)	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect evergreens for bagworm egg cases	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate standing water around property	

May Yard Checklist

Frost danger is past – full planting season is open

Southwest Ohio Average Last Frost Dates

Dayton: April 11–20 | Kettering / Centerville / Beavercreek: April 21–30 | Cincinnati: approx. April 19–21

Always check a 10-day forecast before planting frost-sensitive plants.

Lawn Care DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant frost-tender annuals: petunias, marigolds, zinnias, impatiens, geraniums	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Transplant tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers after last frost	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct sow: zinnias, sunflowers, nasturtiums, basil, beans	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant summer-blooming bulbs: dahlias, gladiolus, cannas (soil 60°F+)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fill containers and window boxes with annuals	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Harden off any seedlings started indoors before transplanting outdoors	
Lawn Maintenance DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish consistent weekly mowing at 3–3.5 inches	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Water 1–1.5 inches per week if rainfall is insufficient	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor for crabgrass breakthrough – apply post-emergent if needed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm fertilizer schedule is on track	
Trees & Shrubs DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prune spring-blooming shrubs AFTER they finish flowering	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete new tree and shrub planting by end of May	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Refresh mulch in any areas thinned by spring rains	
Pest Monitoring & General DONE BY: DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin regular pest monitoring – Japanese beetles emerge in June	NOTES
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate standing water for mosquito prevention	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjust irrigation controller for increasing May temperatures	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reseal pavers if needed	

Need mulch, topsoil, or fertilizer this spring?

Champion Mulch & Landscape Supply delivers bulk materials throughout the Dayton and Cincinnati area.

Order online, schedule delivery, or visit a location to get everything you need for the season.