



ProPower Yard Work Calendar

March: It's not quite growing season in March. Most years there's still a little snow to contend with so some tasks will have to wait but you can get a jump start on the season by:

- **Compost & Mulching** - Take the time to walk your grounds. Collect any fallen tree limbs and leaves around the yard and start composting and mulching. These materials can be used as dressing and fertilizers in future tasks.
- **Seeding & Reseeding** - Once the grass starts to show through we can begin filling out the rough spots. A little early seeding helps crowd out weeds and fill up holes.

April: It's the first stage of spring in April even though, according to calendars, spring starts in March. Now we get the chance to put some real solid work into our yards:

- **Raking & Dethatching** - Now that all the snow has melted and our soil has dried out it's time to 'cure' your lawn. Raking out dead grass and compressed thatch allows your grass to breathe while reducing fungal build ups in the soil.
- **Sodding & Patching** - Sometimes there are spots that seeds can't handle. Laying sod and patches in spring gives new roots time to anchor themselves for a healthy summer of growing.
- **Edging & Trimming** - While some places need more grass other places need less. Cut away excess growth around your walkways and gardens. Remember to compost the waste.

May: By the end of May the growing cycle of our lawn has reasserted itself. Regular growth means regular cuttings and with the hot and dry conditions ahead it's a great time to infuse your yard with oxygen and nutrients:

- **Mowing** - Love it or lump it it's time to start mowing your lawn again. Make sure your cutting blades aren't adjusted to low. Grass cropped too closely has trouble staying alive.
- **Aerating** - Oxygen and space to grow are two necessities when it comes to grass. Aerate your lawn and let a little oxygen into your soil. This promotes rapid growth and keeps your soil from getting too dense, which can hinder roots.
- **Fertilize** - Over the past two months your grass has been growing. The nutrients present in your soil have been consumed by your lawn. This leaves your soil and grass starved for usable nutrition. Put some of that life back into the earth with a little fertilization.

June: Now that we're in the full swing of warm weather a lot of plants are trying to take hold, including weeds. A little maintenance and weeding keeps them from spreading and stealing the nutrients from your soil:

- **Weed** - It's not a lot of fun but it's well worth the effort. Weeding by hand takes unwanted plants out of the equation before they seed and also keeps much needed nutrients in the soil where they belong.
- **Spray Herbicide & Pesticide** - Hand weeding doesn't always yield a weed-free lawn. Another route is spraying herbicides and pesticides to keep unwanted plants and bugs out of your yard. Late May to early June is a great time to lay down some solutions.

- **Plant** - Early June and late May are both great times to start planting new additions to your lawn and garden. Most of the heavy rain, which can drown your plants, has come and gone and frost is no longer an issue, giving your plants the best chance to succeed.

July: The dog days of summer are fully upon us,... and our lawns. It's a good idea to step up watering slightly during dry seasons. It's also a great time for those extra garden projects you've been wanting to get to:

- **Landscape** - Fountains, ponds, walkways and fences are best built in the middle of summer. At this point your grass is strong enough to withstand the construction traffic and there's enough time afterwards for your grass to repair itself, ahead of winter.
- **Topdress** - Summer can be hot and dry. July is a good time to apply some of that topdressing you created in the spring. Place it on top of flower and garden beds to block out the sun and hold in extra moisture.
- **Mowing** - Keep at it. If you've got a healthy lawn with regular growth you'll need to cut your grass approximately 3 times every 2 weeks. Consistent growth is a sign of a healthy lawn.

August: The last of the scorchers, August is the perfect time to give your lawn one last meal before you start preparing it for a few months of rest.

- **Aerate** - It's solid advice to aerate a second time each year. Late August is a great time to aerate. It infuses your lawn with a second helping of oxygen and prepares your yard to absorb nutrients more easily throughout the summer months.
- **Fertilize** - Your grass is hungry and there's a good chance it's sapped your soil for all it's worth. It's time for your second bout of fertilization. This gives your grass some nutrients to consume throughout winter underneath the snow. Grass tends to bounce back faster with a fall application.

September: Now that the sun is setting earlier every night we know winter is on it's way. It's time to start thinking of the future. Beyond your regular watering, cutting and raking you should weed one last time:

- **Weed** - It shouldn't take much time to weed in September. If you weeded and sprayed in spring the job should be tiny by comparison. Take out any new weeds, killing their chance to proliferate next year.
- **Spray** - A quick spray can handle the bulk of any weed problem. Don't let them live until spring when they can infect your entire yard.

October: Your yard isn't the only thing that needs preparation to get through winter. Your equipment needs love too. Taking the time to break down your equipment properly prolongs the life of the machine and related yard equipment.

- **Prep Equipment** - It's a good idea to clean and clear your machine. Remove any mechanical liquids, gas and water on-board so it doesn't freeze or evaporate. Make sure to clean the undercarriage thoroughly as any left over build-up hardens, eventually effecting the revolutions of the cutting blades and moving mechanisms.
- **Prep your Lawn** - Your lawn machines aren't the only equipment that needs tending. Sprinkler systems, lighting tracks, lawn ornaments and jungle gym equipment should be removed and stored so they don't cause compression damage.

November: Well, it's all over. It's time to trade in our mowers, sprinklers and fertilizers for shovels and road salt. There's just a few simple tasks left over to get your lawn ready.

- **Prep Gardens for Winter** - Winter can kill plants, trees and shrubs with ease. Give your yard the best chance for survival by wrapping trees, using left-over mulch to topdress your garden beds and spread any leftover compost on your grass. Waste not want not.
- **Overseeding** - Some amount of snow may have already come and gone in November. This can cause some weak spots to show through your grass. Put a little grass seed into those weak spots to slowly grow green grass throughout winter and to crowd out weeds in the spring.

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