

Landscape Calendar: Sedona, Cottonwood, and the Verde Valley

Note: Average maximum and minimum temperatures are based on 30 year Cottonwood averages.

JANUARY

Avg Temps: Max = 58.3° F; Min = 27.8° F

Maintenance

- Water evergreens monthly, deciduous plants every 6-8 weeks now through March; established trees to a depth of 3 ft and shrubs to depth of 2 ft
- Prune evergreens now to minimize sap and resin flow from branches
- Cut ornamental grasses back to new growth
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture
- Protect frost-tender plants from freezing (cover plants or move containers to a protected location)
- Roses: clean up debris around canes; mulch to protect from freezing; water if no rain or snow

Planting

- Cold-moist stratify seeds for later sowing
- Transplant dormant trees and shrubs and water transplants weekly if no rain or snow
- Plant container-grown landscape plants now through March

FEBRUARY

Avg Temps: Max = 63.7° F; Min = 31.6° F

Maintenance

- Clean and repair drip irrigation systems
- Prune deciduous trees
- Prune roses
- Prune shrubs that bloom after June
- Do not prune plants that have frost damage; a late frost could cause further damage
- Protect frost-tender plants from freezing
- Remove pine, cypress, and junipers killed by bark beetle before they become active again in spring

Planting

- Prepare soils for early spring seeding/planting by adding well-composted organic mater (add nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers at planting time)
- Plant wildflower seeds 1 month before last hard frost
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs, and roses

MARCH

Avg Temps: Max = 68.9° F; Min = 35.6° F

Maintenance

- Adjust irrigation if necessary
- Continue pruning shrubs that bloom after June
- Finish pruning roses
- Fertilize cool-season grass 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to cool-season grasses to control spring annual weeds
- Apply dormant oil before leaf emergence to help manage scale insects, aphids, and mites on deciduous trees and shrubs
- Pull, hoe, or spray cool-season weeds before they go to seed
- Clean up frost-damaged/dead portions of perennials

Planting

- Divide and re-plant summer and fall blooming perennials now through April
- Sow seeds indoors for transplanting
- Plant gladiolus corms
- Plant deciduous ornamentals
- Plant spring annuals for color (e.g. pansies, poppies, primroses, kale, snapdragons, violas, etc.)
- May install cool-season sod, but better to wait for fall



APRIL

Avg Temps: Max = 74.9° F; Min = 40.4° F

Maintenance

- Adjust irrigation controllers for warmer temperatures and plant growth
- Prune to remove winter damage
- Divide late summer and early fall blooming perennials, fertilize, and water as in March
- Protect tender plants from frost
- Fertilize roses after leaves emerge
- Fertilize cool-season turf grasses 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to warm- and cool-season grasses to control summer annual weeds
- Replenish mulch
- Watch for insects such as aphids and white flies

Planting

- Plant pasture grasses and alfalfa

MAY

Avg Temps: Max = 84.3° F; Min = 48.6° F

Maintenance

- Adjust irrigation controllers for warmer temperatures and plant growth
- Prune or remove spent blooms from blooming shrubs after bloom (e.g. forsythia, lilac, wisteria)
- Feed roses in bloom with a complete fertilizer
- Feed and prune flowering shrubs after bloom
- Fertilize bermuda grass 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Fertilize cool-season turf grasses 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Apply mulch as days get hotter
- Watch for aphids and cutworms
- Check shrubs such as juniper and pyracantha for spider mites; control by washing dusty foliage now through August
- Check undersides of elm leaves for elm leaf beetle
- Allow wildflowers to die and go to seed for next year's crop
- Promote beneficial insects by minimizing insecticide use and growing a variety of flowers and shrubs

Planting

- Sow seeds of frost-tender annuals (e.g. cosmos, marigold, zinnia) now through June
- Plant seedlings that were started indoors (wait until mid-month)
- Plant warm-season annual flowers (e.g. marigolds, zinnias, petunias, etc.)

JUNE

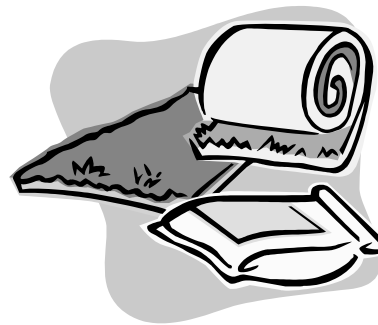
Avg Temps: Max = 95.1° F; Min = 57.9° F

Maintenance

- Adjust automatic irrigation controllers; conventional warm-season turf requires about 1.25 to 1.5 inches of water per week
- Summer prune plants that tend to sucker when young
- Prune climbing roses after bloom
- Collect seeds of early flowering plants now through July
- Remove faded blooms to prolong flowering
- Mow early-flowering meadows as hot weather reduces flowering and seeds ripen; cut to 6 - 12 inches
- Feed roses with a complete, balanced fertilizer (follow product directions for fertilizing frequency through summer)
- Fertilize bermuda grass 3/4 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Fertilize buffalograss 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Do NOT fertilize cool-season turf until October
- Dethatch/aerify buffalo grass if needed
- Monitor roses for fungal disease and treat with fungicide
- Check for damage from grasshoppers, aphids, caterpillars, and other insects

Planting

- Sow seeds of heat-loving plants now through August
- Seed, lay sod, or transplant plugs of warm-season turf species (bermudagrass, buffalograss, or zoysia) now through August
- Consider killing and removing conventional warm-season turf and planting drought-tolerant species such as blue grama or buffalograss



JULY

Avg Temps: Max = 98.4° F; Min = 64.9° F

Maintenance

- Continue to deep water to a depth of 3 ft for trees and 2 ft for shrubs until the monsoon rains begin
- Adjust automatic irrigation controllers to compensate for monsoonal moisture
- Check drip systems to ensure not clogged and appropriately placed for plant size (out to drip line on trees and large shrubs)
- Divide iris and day lilies when finished blooming and remove seed pods
- Collect and sow seeds as noted in June
- Fertilize bermudagrass 3/4 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Fertilize buffalograss 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Dethatch bermudagrass if needed

Planting

- Avoid planting if possible—too hot

AUGUST

Avg Temps: Max = 95.7° F; Min = 63.0° F

Maintenance

- Divide spring-blooming perennials if needed
- Remove blossoms from roses and flowering shrubs to stimulate re-bloom
- Remove annual weeds (tumbleweeds) at ground level before seed set
- Fertilize bermudagrass 3/4 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Fertilize buffalograss 1/4 lb N/1000 sq ft
- May need shade cloth during August and September

Planting

- Avoid planting if possible—too hot

SEPTEMBER

Avg Temps: Max = 90.0° F; Min = 56.6° F

Maintenance

- Decrease volume and frequency of watering as rains and cooling temperatures reduce need
- Remove weeds before they go to seed
- Fertilize bermudagrass 1/2 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide now to mid-October to warm and cool-season grasses to control winter annual weeds
- Apply glyphosate herbicides to control warm-season perennial grasses (e.g. bermudagrass, johnsongrass)

- Clean up yard by removing dead and unproductive plants

Planting

- Divide spring and early summer blooming perennials every 2 to 4 years
- Seed next year's wildflowers now through December
- Plant cool-season turf (e.g. Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue) and pasture grass mixtures
- Plant winter rye for green manure crop
- Set-up solar pasteurization areas; at least one month under clear plastic will pasteurize the soil

OCTOBER

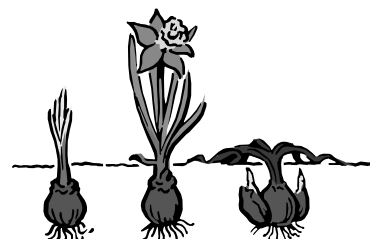
Avg Temps: Max = 78.2° F; Min = 45.4° F

Maintenance

- Decrease watering
- Water and mulch to protect from frost
- Fertilize Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue 1 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Fertilize roses (last time before winter)
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to control cool-season weeds in gravel, ground covers, and turf
- Dethatch/aerify cool-season turf if needed
- Clean up summer garden

Planting

- Plant spring and early summer blooming bulbs 4 to 6 weeks before the first hard frost
- Plant cool-season flowers (e.g. pansies, snapdragons)
- Plant evergreens
- Plant winter barley, rye, and wheat for spring pasture and grain crops
- Plant a cover crop to build up soil organic matter; use rye, oats, barley, or fava beans



- Do NOT over-seed bermudagrass with ryegrass (not recommended at this elevation due to shortened growing season of bermudagrass)

NOVEMBER

Avg Temps: Max = 63.8° F; Min = 33.0° F

Maintenance

- Decrease irrigation schedule (same amount of water, but less frequently)
- Prune dead wood from deciduous trees and shrubs
- Cut back late blooming perennials
- Fertilize cool-season turf 1 lb N/1000 sq ft
- Mulch bare ground to control cool-season weeds; will also minimize frost heaving caused by freezing and thawing
- Compost grass clippings and leaves



Cottonwood: Earliest spring freeze (28.5° F) date is Feb 2nd; latest date is Apr 30th.
Earliest fall freeze (32.5° F) date is Oct 18th; latest date is Nov 25th.

Sedona: Earliest spring freeze (28.5° F) date is Jan 4th; latest date is May 8th.
Earliest fall freeze (32.5° F) date is Sep 21st; latest date is Nov 28th.

Western Regional Climate Center: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu> contains historical data, including freeze date probabilities.

Note: The average growing season in the Verde Valley is 194 days.

Fruit and vegetable calendars:

Yavapai County Vegetable Planting Dates, Bulletin #51

Fruit Calendar for Yavapai County, Bulletin #76

Updated August 1, 2007

Includes information from archived Bulletin #20, Garden and Landscape Calendar for Cottonwood and the Verde Valley
<http://extension.arizona.edu/yavapai>

Planting

- Plant bare-root deciduous plants from sources at least as cold as your site now through March
- Plant frost-hardy, native, woody trees and shrubs such as Texas ranger, Texas mountain laurel, globe mallow, jojoba, acacia, and mesquite
- Continue planting winter grains
- Transplant evergreens

DECEMBER

Avg Temps: Max = 56.6° F; Min = 27.4° F

Maintenance

- Start winter watering schedule (see January)
- Finish yard and garden clean-up
- Hot compost debris to kill over-wintering insect eggs and weed seeds
- Spread clean mulch
- Protect frost-tender plants from freezing by covering or moving containers to a protected location

Planting

- Transplant deciduous trees now through February (when dormant)