Landscape Calendar:
Sedona, Cottonwood, and the Verde Valley

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 buffalo grass 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, buffalo grass, 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

**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)

---

**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](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](http://extension.arizona.edu/yavapai)

---

The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.