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## Monthly Lawn Care Tips

### AUGUST: For the Love of Summer

There is nothing better than summertime... time for beaches, hikes, barbecues, and all the other fun activities that go along with our sunny warm weather in the Northwest. It's also time to give your lawn and garden some care and maintenance. Here's some tips to help you keep your lawn green and healthy.



### Water Wisely

Summer rainfalls in western Washington are nearly as dry as the east side of the state! Let's start with watering. Newly planted lawns and gardens need regular watering, but at specific times of day. The best time to water your lawn and plants is actually in the early morning hours, before the sun gets high in the sky. Watering in the mid day sun can actually magnify the sun and damage the grass and other plants. On very hot days you can follow up with another watering in the evening hours. When watering plants, use a soaking sprinkler or apply water at the base of the plant for better saturation. By using low flow watering in garden beds for longer time periods will help water infiltrate soil into the plant root zones more effectively than short periods with high water flow.



### Pruning Your Plants, Trees and Shrubs

Be sure to deadhead old flower blooms to encourage fall growth. It's also a great time to refresh mulch around trees, shrubs, and perennials to reduce weeds and slow water evaporation from soil. Aim for a 2- to 3-inch-thick layer. It's best to wait until fall for final pruning of trees and shrubs. This eliminates the risk of freeze damage to tender new growth on plants caused by pruning late in the

growing season. Promoting new growth too late in the season doesn't allow plants to harden off their plant tissue.

## **Keep Your Garden Fertilized**

Many plants benefit from a midsummer feeding. Give vegetables a summer feeding by scratching slow-release fertilizer into soil beside plants. If you fertilize your flowers, August is the final month of the year for feeding. Fertilizing roses and other blooming plants now will give them the strength they need to harden off before winter. Osmocote is an all-purpose general fertilizer we recommend and you can find it at any local hardware store or nursery. It works great on bushes, flowers and other plants. Be sure to water your fertilized plants and lawn areas to prevent any chemical burn.



## **Mowing Tips**

And after constant lawn mowing of your lush green lawn, you finally get a break! Mowing frequency should slow down as the grass dries out. Raise your mower blades up one setting and keep your grass a bit longer through the summer. Continue with an application of turf building fertilizer as well. By following these simple steps, you will keep your yard looking great throughout summer.

## **In Conclusion**

Every step of the way, Natural Concept Landscape is here to assist you with all of your lawn and garden care needs. We offer free consultations and excellent maintenance programs for a very affordable price. We are in the business of making your life a little greener, a little easier, and a lot more enjoyable. We are just a phone call away! Enjoy the sunshine!