

Catholic Cemeteries – Caretaker Notes

SUMMER TIME **CEMETERY MAINTENANCE**

June

Flowers

- Pinch chrysanthemums for development of a bushy plant
- Deadhead spent flower blossoms to keep plant flowering
- Remove flower stalks from peonies and iris
- Mulch flower gardens for the summer to conserve moisture, control weeds and cool the soil
- Water plants as needed
- Fertilize roses with about 1 cup of low analysis fertilizer per plant
- Trim spent rose blossoms
- Check plants for insects
- Remove dead foliage from spring bulbs
- Water and fertilize container plantings regularly to encourage growth and flowering

Lawns

- Raise mowing height on bluegrass and tall fescue to 3" or 3 ½" for summer heat resistance
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with high nitrogen fertilizer such as 27-3-3
- Sod or plug bare areas in zoysia lawns
- Spot treat for broadleaf weeds
- Core aerate zoysia lawns for removal of thatch and overall vigor
- Let grass clippings fall for nutrient recycling
- Water the turf sparingly to increase drought tolerance during heat of summer. Let turf wilt between watering for best results

Trees and Shrubs

- Check for bagworms and control as needed
- Mulch around the bases of trees and shrubs to conserve moisture
- Prune pines and spruces to shape and control size
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed
- Prune spring flowering shrubs
- Do not damage tree trunks with mowers and weed whips
- Check for spider mite damage on various shrubs
- Clip hedges as needed to maintain shape

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July

Flowers

- Remove faded flowers from annuals to stimulate more flowers for late summer color, and from perennials to prevent reseeding
- Keep flower beds well mulched
- Place Cut fresh bouquets for enjoyment on hot summer days
- Lightly fertilize annuals to promote growth
- Dig, divide, and replant-crowded irises
- Fertilize roses for fall blossoms
- Fertilize and water container plants
- Complete the final pinching of chrysanthemum tips for bushier plants

Lawns

- Mow bluegrass and tall fescue around 3 to 3 1/2 inches
- Mow zoysia at 1 1/2 inches
- Fertilize zoysia to encourage summer growth with a high nitrogen fertilizer
- Let grass clippings fall to return nutrients to soil and grass
- Be on the lookout for summer diseases such as brown patch
- Watch for grubs. If they begin to hatch, an insecticide may be required. Apply in late July or early August.
- Prepare to control perennial grassy weeds such as zoysia, fescue, and nimblewill
- Take a soil test to prepare for fall lawn renovation
- Water deeply and less often for deep roots and a healthy lawn

Trees and Shrubs

- Water newly planted shrubs and young trees (planted within the last three to five years) during dry weather
- Keep plants mulched to conserve moisture and cool roots
- Remove sucker growth from the base of trees and along branches
- Prune diseased, dead, or hazardous limbs

Miscellaneous

- Water weekly by deeply soaking the soil. Use surface irrigation and avoid watering late at night to help reduce disease development.
- Take photos of flowers, plants, and trees in bloom.

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August

Flowers

- Apply 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week to gardens
- Divide irises and daylilies during this dormant period
- Make last application of fertilizer to roses by mid month
- Control black spot and other rose diseases
- Fertilize mums, hardy asters, and other fall blooming perennials
- Deadhead annuals to encourage late season blossoms
- Cut back and fertilize annuals to produce new growth and fall blooms
- Sow hollyhocks, poppies, and larkspur for spring blooms
- Prepare for fall bulb planting by making orders or researching varieties
- Take cuttings from geraniums and begonias for wintering indoors (if desired)

Lawns

- Water bluegrass one to two times, per week, applying a total of about 1 ½ inches of water
- Water tall fescue one to two times, per week, applying a total of 1 inch of water
- Apply last application of fertilizer to zoysia by mid month
- Be on the look out for grubs and apply proper control methods
- Start planning for fall renovation projects such as aerating and seeding
- Mow turf as needed depending on summer growth
- Destroy unwanted zoysia and Bermuda
- Take a soil test to determine a fertility program

Trees and Shrubs

- Water young trees every 1 to 2 weeks by thoroughly soaking the root system
- Prune and shape hedges
- Check mulch layers and add if needed
- Prune broken, dead or crossing limbs for healthier plants
- Check young trees and shrubs for girdling wires, and ropes from planting
- Avoid fertilizing ornamentals now so they harden off before winter
- Hand remove bagworms

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General Maintenance Concerns:

Over the Summer months, you may find that the lawn at your family's gravesite has been damaged at the time of a nearby burial or when machinery has to cross the lawn to reach an interment site. We wish to assure you that we make every effort to control our machinery and minimize lawn damage.

Throughout the Summer months, seeding has proven either impossible or ineffective. Summer heat prevents effective turf growth. Therefore all gravesites will be seeded once more commencing with our Fall Maintenance Program. The cemetery will commence this program by the third week of September when temperature conditions are more suitable for effective turf growth.

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