

FALL LANDSCAPING CHECKLIST

EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW TO PREPARE
FOR WINTER AND KEEP
YOUR PROPERTY
LOOKING ITS BEST.



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DON'T GET CAUGHT OFF GUARD NEXT SEASON. WINTERIZE YOUR IRRIGATION.

Your irrigation system must withstand Ohio's freeze-thaw conditions. **That's why winterizing your irrigation system is critical.**

An experienced irrigation technician can help you make sure that all batteries and hoses are removed and that your system's water supply is turned off. They'll also verify that any electronic devices (like rain sensors) are unplugged and that all water is drained from your pipes and backflow prevention device.

Consider getting an **irrigation system audit** to be sure your system is running efficiently and effectively. This is a comprehensive year-end service that includes tending to necessary repairs, which might include anything from addressing broken spray heads to checking for leaks and monitoring rain sensors.

Then plan for **irrigation upgrades** next year, which could include adding a smart controller or other water-saving technology.



plant.

FALL IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT FLOWERS, TREES, AND SHRUBS

Go ahead and think spring—because bulbs need to go into the ground before the ground freezes. If you desire that early pop of color from crocuses, daffodils and tulips, plan now to **install bulbs in groupings for maximum color impact**. A bunch of bulbs makes a vibrant statement whereas scattered bulbs that bloom can look haphazard, and even accidental.

If you don't want to wait several months for seasonal color, consider planting **mums, pansies, or voilas for an immediate effect**. Hearty shrubs, evergreens, and maple trees are also great for planting in the fall because they require little maintenance before they go dormant.

DON'T FORGET TO MULCH

Mulching in fall is beneficial for protecting plants from harsh winter temperatures.

Mulch in beds tends to get scattered during summer maintenance and following fall leaf cleanups. Applying a fresh layer of mulch (2 to 3 inches) in fall will lock in moisture and allow you to beat the spring rush to mulch beds, when everyone tries to schedule the service at the same time. **Ask your landscape provider about fall specials on mulch.** Depending on their inventory, you might pay a lower price!

AERATE AND OVERSEED YOUR LAWN

Before the ground freezes but while plants are still growing is the best time to aerate your lawn and overseed to promote thick, healthy turf growth.

Our Northeast Ohio soil is naturally clay-based and prone to compaction. Plus, foot traffic, equipment and environmental factors literally put pressure on our soil and reduce the flow of oxygen to turf roots.

Aeration, as the word implies, “airs out” the soil, allowing oxygen, water, and other key nutrients to reach the root system of your grass. If you notice signs of severe turf damage, consider getting a **soil test** to determine whether your lawn is lacking in key nutrients. Then, apply a round of **fertilizer** if needed.

Overseeding is the simple process of planting seeds directly onto turf that's already established to prevent thinning. While the healthier turf might not need to be overseeded, early fall and later summer are the best times to do this because cooler temperatures help the soil to retain moisture. And warm days, cool nights and increased moisture create ideal conditions for seed germination and root development.



aerate.

PLAN HOLIDAY COLOR AND LIGHT DISPLAYS

With Thanksgiving arriving in mid fall and the winter holidays following shortly after, make sure to **spruce up your commercial landscape's design with holiday color** and seasonal lighting displays that will carry your your property into the New Year.

Consider converting large containers into festive harvest-themed plant displays, and highlight landscape focal points with energy-efficient LED lighting displays.

Remove any outdoor furniture that's not built to withstand winter weather and replace it with items that are seasonally themed and appropriate.

Decorate!





plan.

SECURE YOUR PROPERTY'S SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

If you don't already have a plan for your property's snow and ice management, **make sure to put one in place by early fall.** Here at Schill, we always end up having to turn potential clients away later in the season to ensure we can provide our existing clients with the highest level of service. Don't let that happen to you!

BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR'S LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE & ENHANCEMENT WORK

As you finalize next year's operations budget for your commercial property, **consider landscape enhancements that will deliver a return on your investment.**

Some projects our clients are prioritizing include addressing **retention/detention pond maintenance**, updating entrance landscaping, and **adding lighting and/or signage** to improve safety,