

spring tree care checklist

Unsure of how to take care of your trees and shrubs once they start to bud? Here is a short checklist for spring. It is an excellent time to:

- Check for increased pest activity** — spring is the time when pests emerge, so it is important to look out for any significant changes to your trees and shrubs.
- Do a spring cleaning.** Make sure wood chips aren't piled on the trunks of your trees or shrubs and weed near your plants
- Consider the tiny creatures.** Wait until the average temperature is over 50° before you deadhead flowers or remove last year's plant debris. Many beneficial insects overwinter on dead plants.
- Look for **dead or dying branches.** These are easier to spot once plants start to leaf out — **prune** as needed.
- Start a compost pile.** If you don't already have one, it's easy to build a simple frame using pallets or scrap wood. Start the pile with the spring cleaning material!
- Feed the soil!** Add organic matter like compost or leaves to your soil instead of chemical inputs. Avoid traditional fertilizers.
- Refresh and replenish wood chips.**
- Attract pollinators** like birds, butterflies, and bees to your yard. Install birdhouses and birdbaths. Plant native wildflowers. Make a DIY bee hotel out of scraps of wood and bamboo.
- Begin to treat emerging insects** — not all insects need to be treated, but many have a small window of time to get under control. Don't wait to treat.
- Call your Treecologist to **schedule a spring inspection** of your large trees.

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