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SPRING / SUMMER LAWN CARE INFORMATION

Once we have had many warm and sunny days and everything is growing fast, it is time to begin the spring clean-up. Your rental/lease agreement may require you to maintain the landscape. A healthy and well maintained landscape is easier to care for than a neglected one full of weeds. This is intended to make clear the standards and to eliminate misunderstandings. Here are some general guidelines to help you regain and maintain a healthy and neat landscape.

GENERAL SPRING CLEANING: Start your spring / summer yard maintenance by gathering up all the leaves left over from last fall and any trash that had found its way into corners and under bushes. Some plants may have been damaged or destroyed during the winter. Check thoroughly for any new growth before making your decision to remove the plant. Clean all obviously dead flowers from the flower beds as well as any weeds that are popping up. To minimize the amount of weeding in the future, it is best to remove weeds before they go to seed. Weeds will be an on-going project so get a good start.

GRASS: Re-establish the dimensions of your lawn by edging along sidewalks, driveways and flower beds. Lawns should be mowed regularly to maintain a height of one to two inches. Usually once a week does it for this area. Use a mower with a grass catcher or rake the clippings and haul away.

SHRUBS: It is time to start pruning but be careful not to get carried away. Pruning is simple if you do the following:

- First, remove any dead wood. Then, look for damaged wood. Remove wood that is broken, cracked, overly windblown or dead from the winter freeze.
- Next, prune out any wood that appears diseased. Look for wood that has cankers or open spots in the bark.
- Remove limbs that cross or rub against each other. Crossing limbs can damage a plant by opening holes in the bark.
- Next, prune out any weak interior wood. This is wood that grows toward the inside of the shrub. This wood is not hardy because it does not get sufficient light.
- Finally, make sure you have thinned the plant enough to allow good sunlight penetration and air circulation.

WATERING: Even though it rains a lot in our area, the landscape dries out very quickly due to the clay soil. The landscapes require very regular watering. As the days become warmer and the gap between rainy days grows longer, regular watering is needed. In addition to the lawn, be sure to include shrubs, bushes, and small trees. These require more water than a lawn and should receive a good soaking to reach the deeper root systems. The Register Guard posts watering guidelines during the dry season.

GARDENS: Lawn areas are not to be turned under to make room for vegetable gardens. If you would like to grow vegetables, please us the established flower bed area without removing shrubs or flowers.

FERTILIZER: Fertilizing is necessary to maintain a healthy landscape and is your responsibility. The time to fertilize lawns and shrubbery varies depending on the type of plant and fertilizer used. Organic fertilizers are available from a variety of sources. Check on the package or with the helpful clerks at the garden stores.

CONTRACT SERVICES: If you would prefer to contract for the landscape work to be done you are welcome to do so. Our landscape maintenance may have a limited amount of time to take on new customers if you call us.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. A little extra effort now will bring ease of maintenance and added pleasure later when the weather takes you outdoors. Have an enjoyable spring and summer.