

MAINTENANCE

September Tasks





Seasonal Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes

Lower overnight temperatures

Increased rainfall????

Shorter daylight hours

Things are going to start looking rough

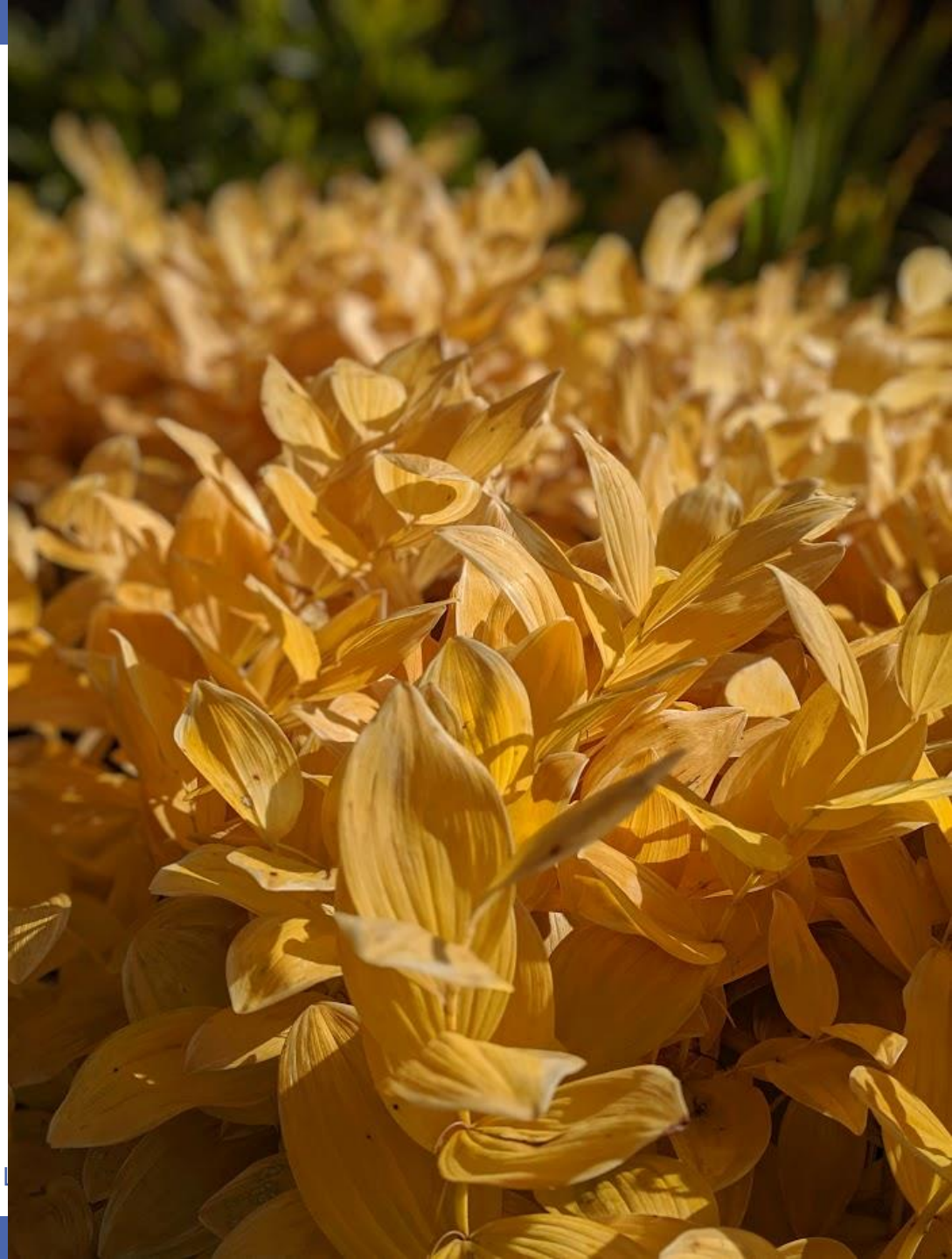


- Drought Conditions for 3rd consecutive year
- High temperatures and drought stress can cause plants to senesce early
- How do you approach this?



... or things might start looking incredible!

- Fall Color
- Winter Interest



Maintenance – Year-Round Care of Landscape Gardens



3 MAIN CATEGORIES OF CARE:

- **PLANT CARE**
- **GENERAL GARDEN CARE**
- **PRESENTATION**



September - Maintenance

PERENNIAL/VINE PLANT CARE

Every plant, every visit

Time to stop fertilizing shrubs and perennials



Perennials/Grasses

Plant

Deadhead

Fertilize

Cut down

Clean Bases

Deadleaf/Finger-Comb/Scrunch

Aerate

Prune dead

Replant

Lift/Uncover (tubers)

Stake/Support

Cut back (for new flush)

Split/Transplant



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Begin to cut down at
time of transplant



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Late Summer Planting Tips:

- Check water is still on
- Watch for irrigation lines
- No more fertilizer, just compost in the planting hole
- Water well, in the planting hole and after reapplying the mulch

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Deadheading Tips:

Evaluate your technique to make sure it's most effective

- Hand pulling

- Snip with pruners

- Ponytail and trim a bunch at once

Don't need to deadhead tidy plants that are interesting to look at

- Beebalm

- Coneflower

- Black-Eyed Susan



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If it pops out of the ground when you're tugging on it, just replant it. Water, compost if you've got it.

Pat pat!



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At a certain point it's not worth deadleafing,
just cut the whole plant back.

Client preference

Overall aesthetics

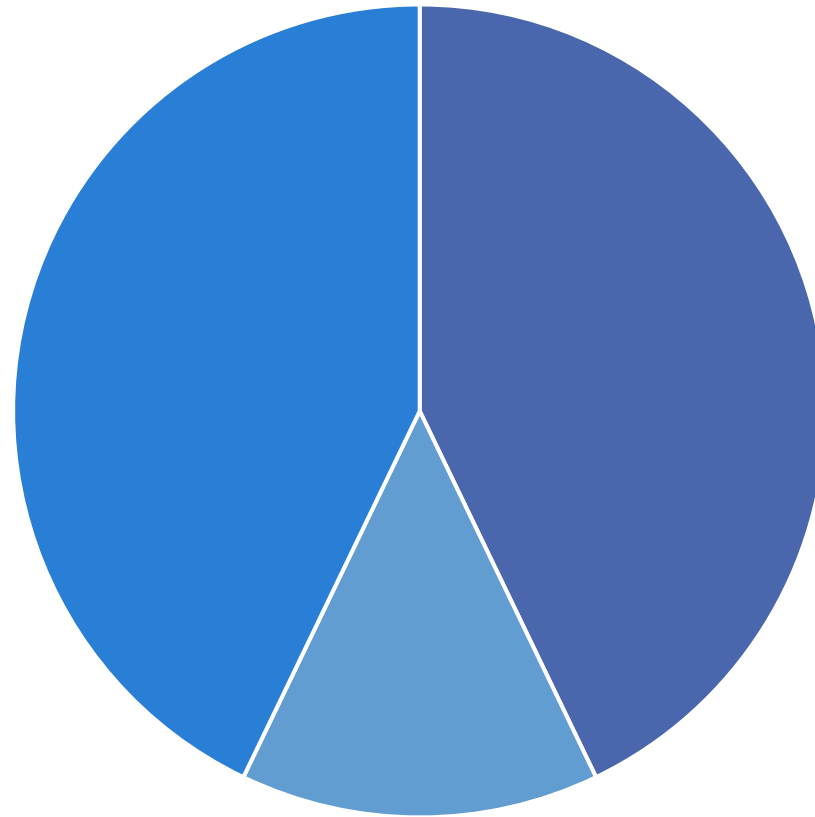


Deadleafing

- Take the worst-looking leaves out to improve the appearance of a clump of plants
- At a certain point, it's not ugly, it's just fall, but wait until October to make that call
 - Allium leaves
 - Hosta
 - Daylilies
 - Grasses



Best Mulch Job

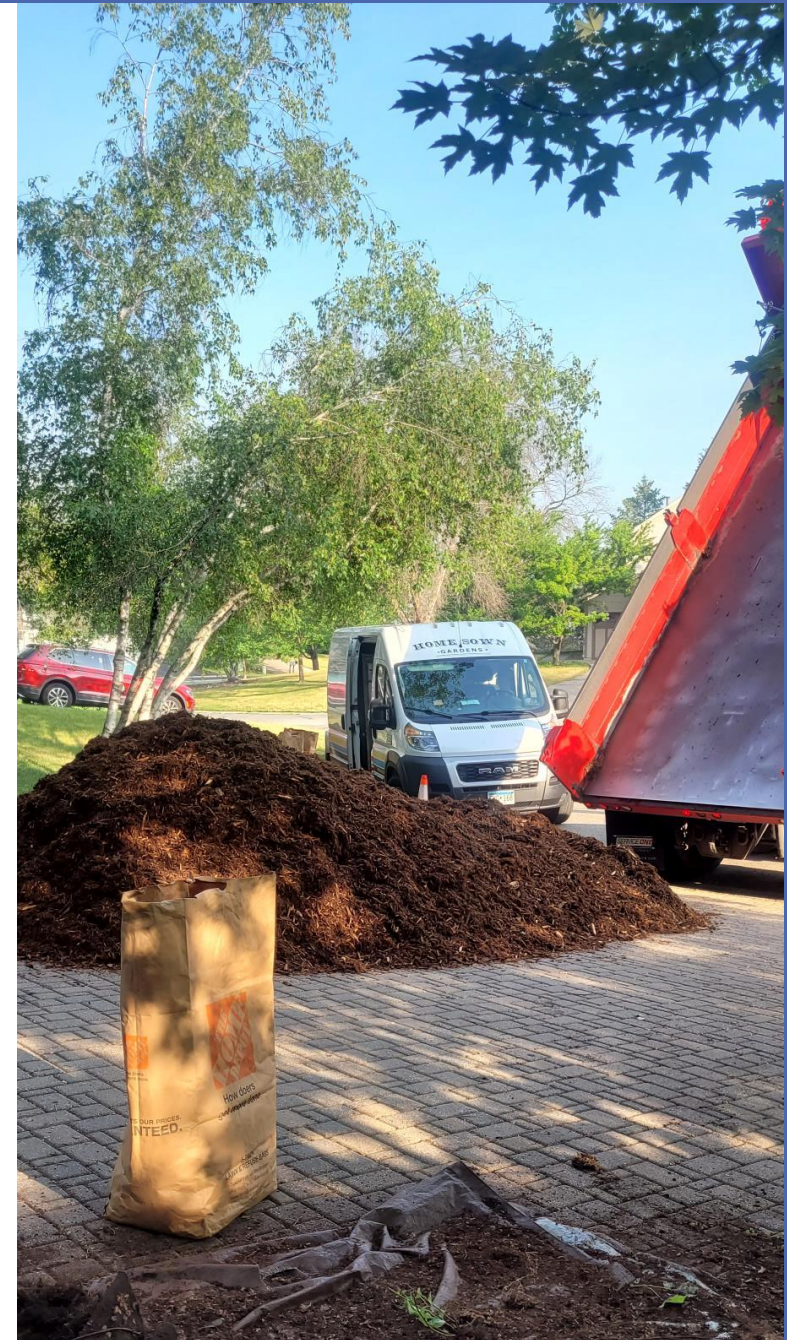


■ Shoveler ■ Runner ■ Spreader ■



Question

- How much mulch are we actually layering onto a garden?
 - In general, 3-4"
 - The width of your hand
 - Less if you're just topdressing existing mulch to make it look fresh
 - WAAAY more if it's Western Red Cedar, like 6-8" easily because it compacts so much

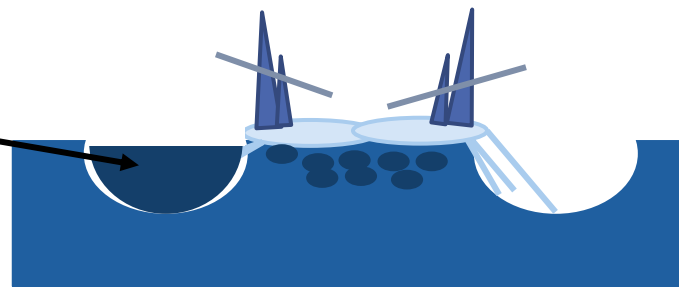


Lifting and Splitting Iris

- Dig up mass of iris
- Tease apart the tubers
- Toss any with rot or damage
 - Oldest tubers won't rebloom
- Trim foliage down to 3-4"
 - Trim roots to 3-4" for ease of planting
- Replant in a logical shape with plenty of compost
 - Tuber laying on the soil surface, top uncovered, roots in the soil



Mix of Compost
& Existing Topsoil



Winter Interest

- Anything that stays standing above the snow to provide something interesting to look at during the coldest months.
 - Trees & Shrubs
 - Grasses
 - Tall Perennials
 - Statues or Structures



Winter Interest

- Traits of Winter Interest Plants
 - Strong enough to stay standing
 - Interesting feature
 - Food for Birds
 - Pollinator Nesting



Winter Interest

- Considerations
 - Is it close to sidewalks/driveways and may get smashed by snowplowing?
 - Will it be covered by snow sliding off roofs or blown/plowed off sidewalks or driveway?
 - Is it very seedy and may cause more problems than it's worth?
 - Is it specifically on the NEVER CUT list?
 - What's the client's preference?



To Cut Back or Not To Cut Back

RARELY,
(only if really gross):

- Geranium
- Lady's Mantle
- Lamb's Ear
- Bergenia
- Ginger

NEVER:

- Russian Sage
- Lavender
- Hellebore
- Hibiscus
- Yucca
- Creeping perennials (sedum, Phlox, Ajuga, etc.)
- Basal crown perennials (heuchera, pulmonaria, brunnera, etc.)
- Short grasses such as Japanese Forest Grass, Carex, Prairie Drop Seed

Ferns

If in Soil – leave (unless client preference to cut back)

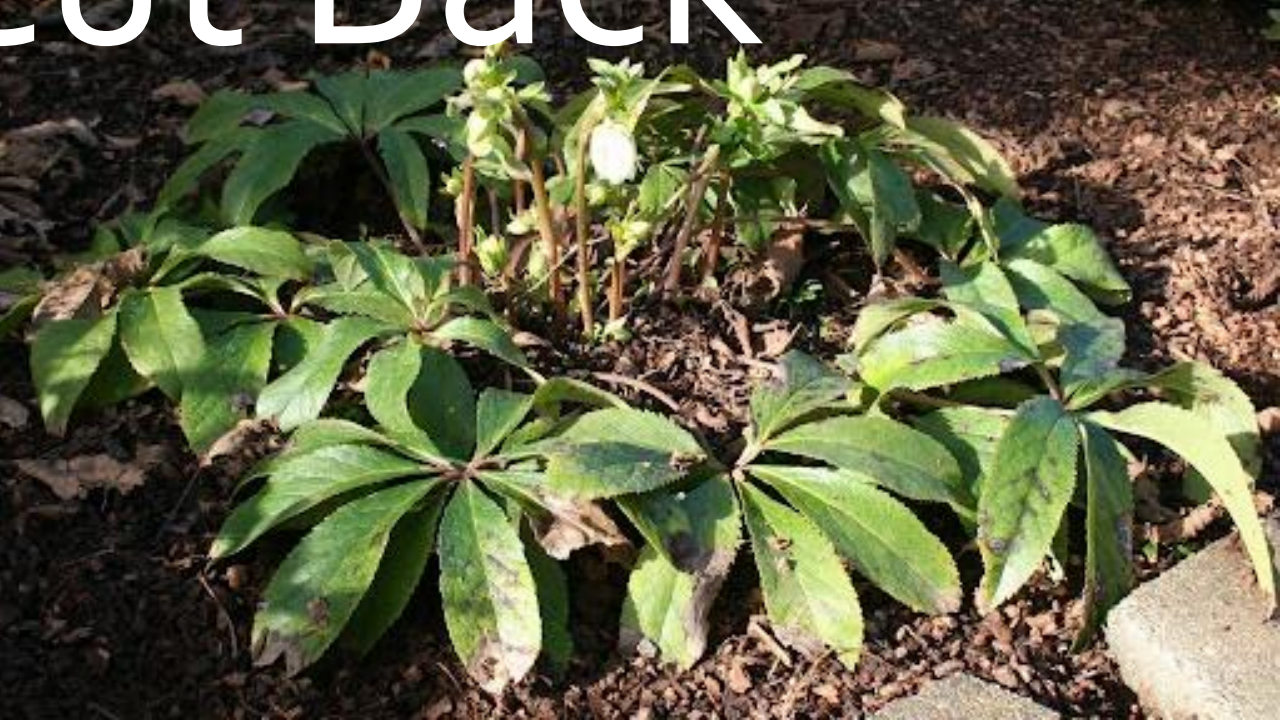
If in Mulch or Rock – cut back, clear debris

Applies to Lily of the Valley unless in large swaths, then leave.





Never Cut Back





Never Cut Back
Groundcover



Never Cut Back

Basal Crown Perennials

But still dead-leaf or scrunch as needed



Never Cut Back

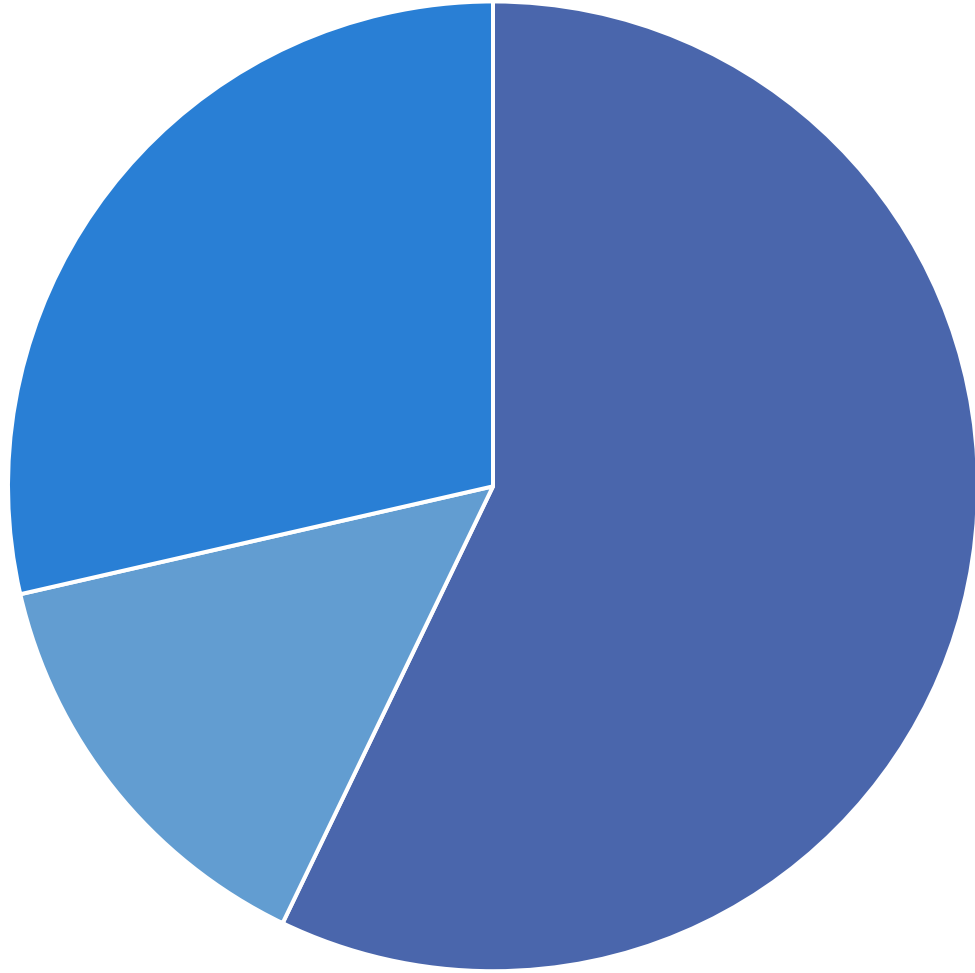
Short Grasses & Sedges



Maybe Cut Back
If Dead-leaving isn't enough

Maybe Cut Back





■ Like Cereal ■ Fork & Knife & BBQ Sauce ■ Other ■



Prune dead

Prune

Fertilize

Plant

Limb up

September - Maintenance

SHRUB/TREE PLANT CARE

Every plant, every visit

Shrubs/Evergreens

Remove insulation/protection

Prune

Deadleaf/needle

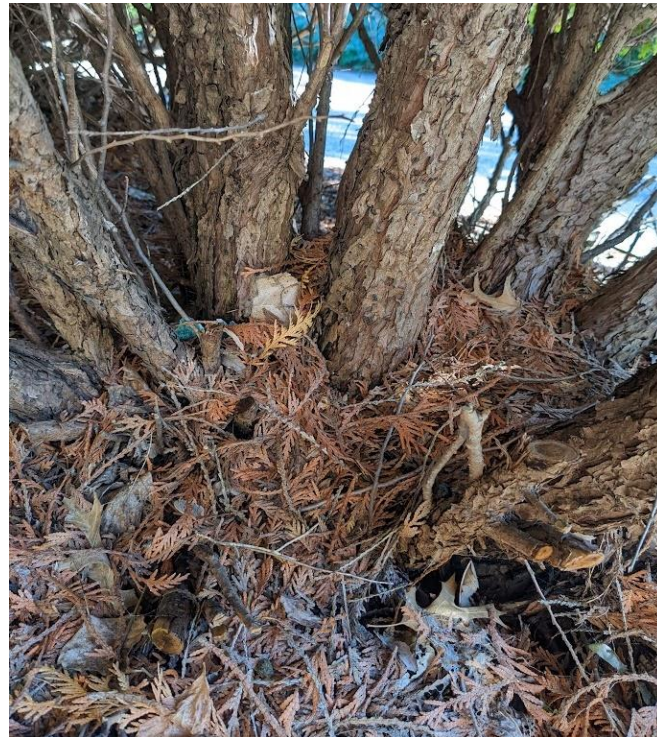
Clean Bases

Plant

Aerate

Deadhead

Fertilize



As dried needle debris builds up the in centers and bases of evergreens (esp Arbs) it can lead to rot or hiding places for mice



September - Maintenance

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Every plant, every visit

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Remove insulation/protection

Prune

Deadleaf/needle

Clean Bases

Plant

Aerate

Deadhead

Fertilize



Seasonal needle drop is normal for most types of evergreens



Ornamental Trees

Prune dead

Prune

Fertilize

Plant

Limb up

Start at the top, work your way down



September - Maintenance

ANNUALS, ETC. PLANT CARE

Every plant, every visit

*Annuals/Veggies/Herbs
/Bulbs*

Plant hardy annuals,
veggies, herbs
Clean-out

containers/replace soil as needed

Deadhead/Deadleaf
Fertilize
Harvest
Pinch



September – Maintenance

GENERAL GARDEN CARE

Every element, every visit

Soil 

- Amend
- Fill holes
- Redistribute

Mulch 

- Apply more
- Pull back from bases
- Redistribute to cover bare areas

Hardscapes 

- Lift stones
- Uncover edges

Pests/Diseases 

- Identify
- Prevent
- Treat

Edges 

- Cut/Ditch
- Lift
- Rake
- Clear off

Everything Else 

- Pick up sticks
- Clear bases of debris
- Blow out beds



September – Maintenance

GENERAL GARDEN CARE

Every element, every visit

Leaves Leaves Leaves!

More debris to clean up = evaluate how you're collecting it

If into bags, use your bucket to collect and pack tightly

If onto tarps, use pop-ups or rake piles directly onto to tarp



Limit the distance between you and the pop-up, bag, or tarp

September – Maintenance

GENERAL GARDEN CARE

Every element, every visit

More debris, more efficiency with packing the trailer

Fill bags by weight

Pack tightly = easy to stack

Load the trailer in an orderly manner

4 bags per row, 8 rows Count bags as you load

FUN FACTS

Most bags left at a client site **82**

Most bags stuffed into the back of a truck **42**



September – Maintenance GENERAL GARDEN CARE

Every element, every visit

More debris, more efficiency with
packing the trailer

Tarps of debris

Layer or bundle tarps

Keep woody debris separate



September – Maintenance

GENERAL GARDEN CARE

Every element, every visit

Leaves Leaves Leaves!

Blow out beds

Rake edges, collecting anything that was added to the lawn by the blower

Create small piles all along the edge

Collect piles (a friend could help while you finish raking)

Neaten area where piles were (leave no trace!)



OUTSIDE FOR PACE PRACTICE

Unless it's raining?.... uuuuhhhhhh

