

## **1. Site Inspection**

Inspect gardens daily. Remove rubbish during inspection. Identify tasks and prioritise those that present a risk of safety to the residents and then focus on the issues that pose a risk to plant and lawn health. Identifying and dealing with problems promptly will ultimately save work and expense.

### **Annual Schedule**

<b>Early Spring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow, ice and rubbish</li> <li>• Animal excavations</li> <li>• Containers – do not let them dry out</li> </ul>
<b>Late Spring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubbish</li> <li>• Weeds in borders, lawns and hard surfaces. Bindweed in hedges.</li> <li>• Pests and diseases</li> <li>• Plants growing close to buildings and in containers – do not let them dry out</li> <li>• Animal excavations</li> </ul>
<b>Summer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubbish</li> <li>• Weeds – remove <b>WEEKLY</b></li> <li>• Water all plants during periods of draught but in particular large trees that have been planted within three years, large shrubs, hedging and containers</li> <li>• Pests and diseases</li> <li>• Animal excavations</li> </ul>
<b>Autumn</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubbish</li> <li>• Weeds</li> <li>• Pests and diseases</li> <li>• Moss in lawns</li> <li>• Fallen leaves on lawns and hard surfaces</li> <li>• Animal excavations</li> <li>• Pay attention to water requirements of plants growing close to buildings and in containers</li> </ul>
<b>Winter</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubbish</li> <li>• Fallen leaves on lawns and hard surfaces</li> <li>• Snow and ice</li> <li>• Weeds within deciduous shrubs</li> <li>• Animal excavations</li> <li>• Containers – do not let them dry out</li> </ul>

## Further Information

### General

- Check for **litter**
- Check borders for **animal excavations**. Not only do they look unsightly, but excavations may have exposed the roots of a plant making it vulnerable to further damage.
- **Keep an eye on plants planted close to the building**. Test the soil and give them thorough water if the soil is dry.
- **Check raised beds and hanging baskets**. Ensure the compost in containers is kept moist. Unlike plants grown in the ground, plants in containers have very limited water reserves. Even after rainfall, containers may still need watering, especially those in sheltered areas such as under the eaves of roofs.
- **Remove worm casts and fallen leaves from lawns**. Worm casts are ideal sites for weeds to germinate and a layer of leaves can lead to the development of moss or lawn diseases.
- **Examine lawn edges** and note any repairs that need to be made.
- Check for **plant damage** around the car park bays
- **Inspect hard surfaces and breedon gravel paths** for any defects
- Check for plant damage and general mess after any **building work**.

### Plant Health

- Take the time to check trees, shrubs and plants for changes in appearance or poor growth which may be an early sign of pests, diseases or disorders. Check leaves for wilting, discolouration, distortion or dropping. Examine plants that have failed to come into leaf or have poorly developed buds. Look for unusual growths or coatings on all parts of a tree, shrub or plant.

### Common Pests and Diseases

Pest or Disease	Host Plant	Symptoms	Treatment
Aphids (sap sucking greenfly, blackfly)	Most plants.	Young stems, buds and flowers are weakened and distorted. The sugary, sticky 'honeydew' excreted by aphids may develop an sooty mould	Treat before infestations get serious. Chemical sprays are available.
Caterpillars (various butterfly and moth)	Most plants.	Leaves are nibbled or completely devoured	Pick off by hand, if practical.
Fungal leaf spots (fungus)	Many plants. Common example - Rose Black Spot.	Fungus causes unsightly spots. Often leads to early leaf fall. Plants may be weakened and not make it through winter.	Remove all affected parts and rake up leaves. Do not compost. Fungus during winters successfully. Sprays available for roses.
Powdery Mildew	Most plants.	White, powdery growth	Keep plants watered

(fungus)		on leaves. Leaves turn yellow and fall early. Young plants may be drastically weakened. The fungus thrives on plants with dry roots and warm, moist and stagnant conditions around foliage.	and reduce overcrowding. Encourage an open plant framework to enable air to circulate. Remove affected plant parts. Fungicides are available.
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**Environmental or nutritional problems**

- Check plants for disorders brought about by unfavourable growing conditions. Look for poorly developing buds, small flowers, small fruits, early autumn colours, leaf drop, wilted and stunted growth.

**Common Environmental and Nutritional Disorders**

Environmental Condition	Symptoms	Causes and Treatment
Drought	Poor bud development, small flowers or fruits, early autumn colours or die-back. Plants wilt and growth is stunted. Lawns develop yellow, straw-like patches.  Plants in pots are particularly at risk especially in hot weather.	Usually as a result of prolonged drought or insufficient watering.  Water regularly. Frequently check on plants in hot, sunny areas. Mulch to improve moisture retention. Lawns usually recover when rains return.
High temperatures and scorch	Leaves wilt, turn yellow/brown, and become dry and crisp. Tips and margins often affected first. Leaves may shrivel completely.	Scorching is caused by bright light rather than high temperatures. Scorching can occur when hot, bright weather follows a dull, cool period.  Avoid overhead watering of plants in hot, bright weather.
Low temperatures	Leaves appear bleached and develop brown patches. Evergreen foliage may turn brown. Frost injury causes puckered, discoloured, often black leaves. Withered petals or the whole flower may be lost.	Low or extreme fluctuations in temperatures. Plants in exposed areas or frost pockets are vulnerable.  Make sure the plant is suitable for the site. Provide winter protection for young, tender or exposed plants.
Nitrogen Deficiency	New leaves are pale green and can develop yellow or pink tints. Growth is reduced and a	Nutrient poor or light soils. Neglected container plants.

	plant lacks vigour.	Apply a fertilizer with high nitrogen content. Apply well-rotted manure.
Waterlogging	Plants wilt, and leaves turn yellow. Roots may rot. Plant may die.	Excess water through overwatering, poor soil structure, compaction or poor drainage.  Improve drainage and soil structure. Build raised beds and choose plants that are suitable for moist conditions. Check containers have suitable drainage holes.