



COVENANTS CORNER

HELLO AGAIN ! Welcome to our corner of the Glenhurst neighborhood website.

You will find 6 Tips to get yards ready for Spring on pages 2-3

As with all offices and committees of our Home Owners Association the Covenants Committee is strictly volunteer. We serve with only the best aim, to keep our neighborhood beautiful and a desirable place to live. For each of our residents who have received a letter asking that an issue be resolved, and who have very graciously taken care of the matter, **Your efforts are appreciated !** If you receive a letter from the Covenant Committee and you do not understand the issue at hand, please feel free to contact us, we'll be able to discuss it with you.

We have a wonderful neighborhood with great families and we are fortunate to be here. As we know through experience a lovely neighborhood like this one takes time, effort, and lots of seasonal care. When we drive or walk through our neighborhood and see the quality of our homes and the beautiful landscaping, it brings a sense of well-being to us. Whether or not our homes are extravagant isn't important, what matters is that our homes are well cared for, with well-maintained lawns and garden beds where weeds don't rule, and where our trash bins, garden tools, discarded pieces of furniture and other paraphernalia are not stowed along the outside walls of our houses. To maintain a high standard of quality and care is important as it contributes significantly to the value of *your* property, and when all of us do it the desirability and value of the entire neighborhood stays high.

TRASH/RECYCLE BINS Always keep Big Blues stowed out of sight until pickup day. IF you see that your neighbor's garbage or recycle bin(s) are consistently left out, a little reminder usually is well received. Or possibly check that your neighbor is well; you may be able to help put the bins away if needed .

WEEDS **It is NOT TOO LATE to apply weed preventer to your lawns.** Taking **preventive action** now can provide a head start when late March, April and May rains kick start the **rapid** growth of weeds and their

prolific root systems in our yards and gardens. You will find many signs in yards with the names of companies that provide preferred lawn services and with a range of prices that make it worthwhile to find the best one for your needs.

PREPARE GARDEN BEDS NOW After a good rain, when the ground is softer than usual, is a **perfect** time to use a hand spade or narrow shovel to dig up weeds from yards and gardens. The same is true for removing grass from garden beds; dig up the grass **with** the roots. After removing the grass and roots from the bed, cover the dirt in the beds with **approximately 3 inches of mulch** which will be very important to prevent weeds or grass from becoming **re**-established in those areas. If those pesky things reappear, their root systems will be shallow and easily removed because the deep mulch is loose and the weed roots have nothing firm to attach to. You can easily remove them by hand or even spray them with weed killer if preferred. *For the sake of birds, bees, butterflies and other helpful insects, however, the weed killer is devastating to their population because it also kills these living and very helpful creatures.*

TREES AND SHRUBS When trees and/or shrubs appear to be sick or dying and you don't know what to do, cut off a sample and take it to a good nursery like TLC or to the OSU Extension in Oklahoma City on Portland Ave., to get help from an expert. Their information is free and they can also lead you in the best direction for either care or removal of the item. If one of your trees or shrubs has limbs that are dead with the remainder of the item still in good health, simply remove the limb(s) with a sharp *pair of loppers*. If you have no loppers, they can be found at Lowes or Home Depot, hardware stores, or nurseries, usually priced around \$20-\$30 depending on the brand. Then take the dead limb, along with a clear picture of the entire tree or shrub to an expert at one of the locations mentioned above to see if they might be able to determine the problem. Their help may be all you'll need.

6 Things to get your yard ready for Spring : simple tips from Ed Laflamme, a Landscape Industry Certified Manager and author of Green Side Up .

1. Do some cleaning.

The first step to prepping your lawn for spring is to clean up the leaves, twigs and other debris that have gathered over the winter. Rakes work, but air blowers are even easier. "Debris can get stuck in your lawn mower, and it will block fertilizers and other materials from being properly absorbed by the lawn," Laflamme says.

2. Apply fertilizer, pre-emergent and weed killer.

Early in spring, use a combination of fertilizer, which feeds your grass, and pre-emergent, an herbicide used to prevent crabgrass. Then, six to eight weeks later, apply both products again, along with a broadleaf weed killer. "You don't want to let crabgrass come up or you'll be fighting it all season," Laflamme says. He notes that many lawn care brands offer a combination of pre-emergent and weed killer in one application, which will lower your cost and the time it takes to apply them.

3. Mow early, mow often.

One of the big mistakes homeowners make is only mowing once a week in the spring. “If you let the grass grow too high and then cut it, it stunts the roots so they can’t reproduce properly,” he warns. Instead, mow every five days for the first six weeks of spring, depending on the weather, to ensure a thicker, fuller lawn.

4. Pick a good, heavy mulch.

Once your lawn is cared for, edge out your beds, trim back dead branches on shrubs and replace the mulch. Laflamme prefers hardwood bark mulches over ground wood chips that have been dyed brown. “They look better and they last longer.”

5. Trim the trees.

“It’s hard to tell if a tree has dead branches unless you get up into it,” Laflamme says. If dead branches are left untended, they can fall, causing property damage and potential injury. Consider hiring a tree trimmer to do a “safety prune” once every three years — ideally before the leaves come out, when it’s easier to see the condition of the branches.

6. Don’t seed until fall.

It’s tempting to fill brown patches with grass seed, but if you are also applying pre-emergent or weed killer, the seeds won’t germinate. Instead, fertilize the lawn, and in a few weeks shoots will grow and fill in the brown spots, Laflamme says. “If the brown patches are too big, or you just can’t wait, sod is the better option.”