

# Welcome to Your Tree's New Best Friend!

Whether you're nurturing a backyard oak or managing a few ornamental maples, your trees need a little seasonal TLC to thrive. This month-by-month calendar is made for Louisville homeowners who want to keep their trees healthy, storm-ready, and looking great all year long.

### Here's what you'll find inside:

- Monthly checklists with simple, actionable steps
- Local weather reminders
- Pro tree care tips from our certified arborists
- Room to add your own notes or reminders



# **Year-Round Tree Care at a Glance**

Season	Key Focus Areas
Spring	Pruning, planting, pest monitoring, fertilizing
Summer	Deep watering, mulch refresh, storm prep
Fall	Health checks, light pruning, leaf cleanup, soil care
Winter	Damage inspections, storm response, future planning

#### **Notes**

Make a note of your to-do's here!

Thought	Action-Steps



#### January - Inspection & Planning

- Inspect bark for winter cracks or wildlife damage
- Remove snow from small limbs after storms
- Avoid walking on frozen root zones (prevents compaction)
- Make a tree care plan for the year or schedule consultations

Pro Tip: This is a great month to schedule your spring pruning ahead of the rush!

#### February – Prep & Pre-Pruning

- Check for early budding on sensitive trees
- Gently clear snow or ice (don't shake branches!)
- Review last year's issues to prep for spring
- Prune only if urgent for safety or structural damage

Pro Tip: Start planning removals before trees leaf out—it's easier and often more affordable.

#### March – Winter Recovery Begins

- Inspect for winter damage: broken limbs, splitting bark
- Begin structural pruning before new growth starts
- Refresh mulch around tree bases (leave room around trunk)
- Look for signs of early pest activity

Pro Tip: This is prime time for planting new trees in Louisville!

#### April – Full Spring Awakening

- Finish pruning flowering trees after bloom
- Fertilize young and nutrient-deficient trees
- Check for fungal leaf spots or insect eggs

• Stake young trees if needed for spring windstorms

Pro Tip: Avoid heavy pruning now—just shape and support.

#### May - Health Check & Watering

- Begin consistent watering (especially for new trees)
- Monitor for insect pests like borers or aphids
- Inspect leaves for curling, yellowing, or damage
- Light thinning for airflow is okay

Pro Tip: Newly planted trees need 1-2" of water per week.

#### June – Summer Storm Watch

- Trim storm-prone branches (especially on older trees)
- Remove water sprouts and suckers
- Deep water trees during dry spells
- Check mulch levels—too much = root rot risk

Pro Tip: Summer storms = summer inspections. Make sure trees are storm-resilient!

#### July – Shade & Drought Stress

- Water early in the morning to prevent evaporation
- Look for wilting or premature leaf drop (stress signs)
- Avoid heavy pruning during peak heat
- Continue light trimming of ornamentals only

Pro Tip: Trees under stress are more vulnerable to pests—stay alert!

#### 🬳 August – Early Fall Prep

- Reduce watering slightly as temps begin to drop
- Begin early removal of dead or broken limbs
- Schedule fall pruning or removals with your arborist
- Clean debris and fallen branches to prevent fungal issues

Pro Tip: Need tree work this fall? Book now before everyone else does.

#### September – Prune & Protect

- Begin structural pruning (non-flowering trees)
- Apply fall fertilizer to stressed trees
- Aerate compacted soil around roots
- Watch for fungal growth during damp days

Pro Tip: This is one of the best months to plant trees in Kentucky!

#### October - Mulch & Maintenance

- Rake leaves to avoid fungal spread
- Mulch before first frost (keep it 2–3 inches deep)
- Inspect tree roots and trunks for visible damage
- Wrap saplings or sensitive species in burlap

Pro Tip: Trees store energy in fall. Care now = strength in spring.

#### November – Final Touch-Ups

- Finish any needed trimming before dormancy
- Remove damaged limbs to avoid winter breakage
- Wrap tree trunks to prevent frost cracks or deer damage
- Inspect trees near the home for winter risk

Pro Tip: Bare trees make inspection easier—spot issues before snow hits.

#### December – Dormant Monitoring

- Watch trees after heavy snow or wind
- Prune ONLY if necessary for safety
- Prep for emergency removal if your trees are near power lines or structures
- Sit back and let your trees rest

Pro Tip: Consider a professional tree risk assessment before the new year.



# **Tree Tasks by Season**

Season	Key Tasks
Spring	✓Prune for shape & structure ✓Plant new trees ✓Fertilize & mulch
Summer	<ul><li>✓Deep water weekly</li><li>✓Trim light branches</li><li>✓Storm damage check</li></ul>
Fall	✓Final pruning ✓Rake leaves ✓Mulch to insulate roots
Winter	✓Inspect bark & limbs ✓Plan removals ✓Clear snow from branches

# **Monthly Focus Summary**

Month	Top Task	Watch Out For
Jan	Tree inspections	Snow damage, trunk cracks
Feb	Prep for pruning	Early budding
Mar	Structural pruning & mulching	Lingering winter damage
Apr	Fertilize & plant	Insect eggs, fungus
May	Deep watering starts	Leaf pests
Jun	Storm prep & suckers removal	Heat stress, broken branches
Jul	Shade protection & inspections	Drought stress, overwatering
Aug	Light trim & tree checks	Wilting, fungus, early leaf drop
Sep	Aeration & fall feeding	Root exposure
Oct	Leaf cleanup & mulching	Early frost
Nov	Trimming & wraps	Winter storm prep
Dec	Tree rest, damage monitoring	Heavy snow or ice



# **Tree Trouble Signs (Call a Pro)**

- Fungus or mushrooms at base
- Leaning or shifting roots
- Cracks or splits in trunk
- Dead limbs or hanging branches
- Tree too close to power lines or structures
- Insect swarms or bore holes



Tip: If you see any of these—schedule a risk assessment with New Leaf Tree Service.

### **♦** Need Help or Not Sure?

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# **Tree Care Tool Checklist**

Do You Have the Right Tools for Tree Care?

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<ul> <li>Hand pruners or loppers (for limbs under 1")</li> <li>Pole pruner with safety grip</li> <li>Pruning saw with curved blade</li> <li>Bypass shears for young branches</li> </ul>
<b>■</b> Safety Gear
☐ ANSI-rated safety glasses ☐ Hard hat or climbing believe

## **O** What NOT to Use Without Training

Chainsaw on a ladder

☐ Work gloves with good grip☐ Sturdy, closed-toe boots

☐ Rope + limb combo without a pulley system

Fesentials for Safe DIV Care

Gas-powered pole saws (high kickback risk)



If your limb is **higher than 10 feet, thicker than your wrist, or near a power line**—that's a job for us. Don't risk injury.

### **Let New Leaf Handle the Big Stuff**

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