

The 12 month grounds maintenance calendar for south east Melbourne

Melbourne grounds run on two speeds. Grass and hedges grow hard from September to April and slow right down from May to August. A good program follows that curve, which is why a flat weekly schedule overpays in July and falls behind in November. Pin this up in the site office.

Month	Mowing and lawns	Hedges and pruning	Beds, weeds and feeding	Also this month
Sep	Mowing steps up as growth takes off, fortnightly toward weekly on high presentation sites	Catch-up pruning, bed resets and edge definition, everything done now pays until autumn	Preventative weed treatment goes down before the soil fully warms, ahead of the summer weeds	Irrigation checked over and timers reset before the first hot week
Oct	Weekly or fortnightly by lawn type and standard	First main hedge trim once the spring flush has pushed and hardened, so the cut holds its line	Feeding resumes with growth, mulch topped up before the heat	The storm season walk: dead limbs, pits and grates, loose items, a dated photo set
Nov	Growing season frequency holds	Hedges holding their line, shrubs shaped	Beds mulched and weeded, summer weeds caught small	Fire prevention notices land on larger blocks, long grass on boundaries brought down
Dec	Growing season frequency, cutting height lifted so the leaf shades the soil	Light shaping only, no hard cuts in heat	Deep and infrequent watering where irrigation exists	Storm debris cleared after wind events, pits kept clear
Jan	Growth pulses with rain and pauses in heatwaves, the operator reads the site rather than cutting for the sake of the visit	No hard cuts in extreme heat, it browns the face of the hedge	Some browning on unirrigated warm season lawn is normal and recovers with autumn rain	Guests and summer use: entries, entertaining areas and frontages kept ready
Feb	Growing season frequency	Fast growers may need a mid summer pass	The second preventative weed window opens, ahead of the winter weeds including winter grass	Late summer tidy before autumn
Mar	Autumn rain brings a second flush, frequency holds	Final hedge shaping of the year begins mid to late autumn	Autumn feed strengthens turf before the cold	Leaf drop starts under deciduous trees, paths and drains first
Apr	Frequency tapers late in the season	Final shaping, a clean cut holds its edge through winter	Oversow or repair cool season and shaded lawns while the soil is warm enough to strike	Leaves off paving, pits and gutters, a slip and a flood risk
May	Stretching out to fortnightly or monthly	Growth has nearly stopped	Winter weeds now the main pressure, beds kept clean	Last of the leaves, corners and fence lines cleared
Jun	Fortnightly to monthly, litter and paths still need attention	Deciduous trees and roses pruned while dormant	Bed edging and definition shows best against slow growth	Disruptive or machinery heavy jobs suit the quiet months
Jul	Winter minimum	July is the traditional month for roses in Melbourne	Structural work and resets	Planning season: budgets, scopes and contractor decisions settled before September. If the contract is going to market, this is the time
Aug	Winter minimum, then watch for the first flush	Last of the dormant pruning	Beds prepared, mulch planned	Tender issued and quotes compared before the growing year starts

Spring the flush

Summer heat management

Autumn the second flush and the leaves

Winter structure, reset and planning

Warm season lawns (kikuyu, couch) surge October to March. Cool season and shaded lawns flush in spring and autumn. Weeds come in two waves, so preventative treatment is timed twice a year.

Have the calendar run for you. A seasonal program set to your site, condition reports through the year and one fixed monthly fee that reads the same in July as it does in January, for body corporate, commercial, industrial and acreage sites across south east Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula. The full guide: kangagardening.com.au/insights/melbourne-grounds-maintenance-calendar