

By David Lott

UNL Extension Educator

Warmer weather and the urge to be outside is prompting many people to want to garden and work in their landscapes. Various plant materials, garden and landscape materials are also arriving in garden centers, hardware stores, and retail stores. All these factors create the urge to work outside.

While this urge is exciting, various jobs in the garden, lawn or landscape need to be completed at the correct time.

Applying chemicals, pesticides, or fertilizer early will not produce the expected results. Early mechanical changes in plants, including pruning, can actually damage perennial plants in the landscape.

Please note the proper time to carry out these jobs in the garden and landscape to avoid damage or ineffective applications:

Pruning Deciduous Trees: Dormancy is the best time to prune. Avoid pruning in April to avoid damage to spring growth. Pruning can resume from June through mid August.

Pruning Fruit Trees: Now is the time to prune. Avoid pruning in January and February. Pruning may also be carried out in July and August.

Pre-emergence Herbicides: Wait until April through mid May to apply these products to help increase effective control of various weeds in lawns.

Turfgrass Management Care Calendar: Management of lawn turf varies with the type of cool season and warm season turf that is growing in individual yards.

One of the best resources is the online turf care calendar on the UNL Extension Turfgrass website. Check out the website by going to <http://turf.unl.edu/lawncalendars.cfm> for specific care instructions for Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and zoysia lawn information.