

CAREFREE MAINTENANCE



Simply designing and planting a beautiful landscape isn't enough. You want to ensure the beauty of your property throughout the seasons. But do you have the time to clean and mulch the beds each March, weed in April, plant flowers in May, prune through the summer ... on through planting and holiday preparation in the fall and a year-end cleanup in December? Yet ongoing, year-round maintenance offers the best way to preserve the value of your landscape investment.

That's why Baker Creative® developed our proprietary Carefree Maintenance program, customized for each client's needs yet built on our own expertly designed and tested month-by-month program.

We attend to your property from March through December and then help plan for the year to come. You enjoy the assurance that professionals are maintaining the health, beauty and seasonal appeal of your outdoor spaces.

One aspect of our program is the natural pruning of trees and shrubs. Unlike trimming, which is harmful to plants, natural pruning can rejuvenate your specimens, promoting new, healthy growth. Your trees and shrubs will live longer and fit into the overall design of your new landscape. Our expertise in natural pruning can also allow us to use your existing plant material when other landscapers might recommend replacing it. All of which can save you money.

What's more, you won't be paying for the necessary continual trimming to control bushes that never should have been trimmed in the first place. Natural pruning requires maintenance only once or twice every year.



The Baker Creative® Program

March We provide spring cleanup of beds, mulching and preparing them for the season. We prune the dead and broken limbs from your shrubs and cut back certain perennials and ornamental grasses. We also remove trash from the beds and secure fallen shrubs.

April We spray for the perennial weeds that are difficult to eradicate and check under and behind your shrubs to control vines that the birds seeded during the previous fall. This is when we remove what can amount to hundreds of tree seedlings that are beginning to grow where you don't want them.

May Now is when it gets really colorful! In May, we plant annuals and ... plant annuals. We also continue the maintenance program as we pinch back your Mums and Asters to increase their bloom; control grassy weeds; cut English Ivy off your trees and home; and blow off flowers and pollen that have fallen from the large trees such as Oaks and Maples.

June We provide the first major trimming and pruning. We check the perimeters for vines and weed trees to remove them before they get out of hand. We also remove foliage from spring bulbs and the stems from spring flowers.

July Pruning continues in July, with a focus on small trees and low branches, large perimeter shrubs, and specialty shrubs such as espalier, topiaries and bonsai. We clear away from patios and walkways the seed pods that have fallen from trees.

August The second major pruning and trimming occurs now, and we do a great deal of weeding, especially in ground covers. We keep your perennials in pleasing proportions and remove branches that have fallen from storms.

September With fall's arrival, we prune only with the precision of hand shears to ensure that your shrubs will enter the dormant season with a natural contour. We cut the stems from perennials that are finished for the season and control the potentially weedy perennials such as Black-eyed Susans and Monardia.

October As colder nights leave some annuals and perennials looking tired, we cut these back. We plant Mums and Kale late in the month and reduce leaves in the beds so they don't suffocate flowers or small shrubs.

November / December After the hard freeze we remove annuals and cut back the perennials. We trim the edges of your winter perennials, such as ornamental grasses and berried shrubs. This is when we complete the final weeding of hidden vines and weed trees, leaving your property spruced up for the holidays.

To learn more about Carefree Maintenance from Baker Creative, visit www.BakerCreative.com. Or contact us at **215.884.4978** or by e-mail at info@BakerCreative.com.