

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

At Liberty University

By Randy Johnson

A. Requirements for grounds and landscape maintenance.

The following requirements and schedules apply to maintenance functions of the University grounds. Inclement weather, emergency conditions and/or University priorities may affect this schedule.

1. Turf Maintenance

- a) Mowing - Performed on a minimum of a weekly basis from March to November on all turf areas.
- b) Trimming - Buildings, signposts, poles and other obstacles trimmed around in conjunction with the mowing operation.
- c) Edging - All curb/turf borders trimmed on a monthly basis. All sidewalks trimmed three times during growing season.
- d) Fertilization - Turf maintenance fertilizer applied each fall at a rate of 2-3# Actual Nitrogen per 1000 ft². Nutrient and pH levels are adjusted to maintain proper fertility based on soil tests taken every 3rd year.
- e) Aeration - Performed once in the spring and once in the fall.
- f) Broadleaf and crab grass control - Herbicides applied on prime turf areas to maintain desirable level of turf quality.
- g) Leaf collection - Leaves collected in November and December and composted for future use as soil amendments.

2. Horticulture Maintenance

- a) Trees - Inspected bi-annually for deadwood, waterspouts, suckers and undesirable growth. Pruning to correct all of the above conditions.
- b) Shrubs - Inspected and pruned bi-annually to control growth and maintain aesthetic beauty.
- c) Annuals - Planted spring and fall in order to provide colorful display as long as possible throughout the year.
- d) Mulching - All landscape beds are inspected and mulching done as required to maintain a protective cover.
- e) Fertilization - All flowering plants are fertilized to maintain vigorous growth and health.
- f) Weed control - Pre-emergent herbicides will be applied on all landscape beds to control weeds. Spot treatment with contact herbicides done monthly from April until October. Hand weeding of all beds on a monthly basis.
- g) Integrated pest management - Monthly inspections of all landscapes to monitor threshold levels of insects and disease. Pesticides used to control harmful infestations and conditions.

3. Athletic Field Maintenance

- a) Warm season turf (Bermudagrass)
 - January - March - Mowing may be necessary
 - Apply Pre-emergent herbicides
 - April -Regular 2-3 time/ wk mowing
 - Apply nitrogen fertilizer
 - May -Apply nitrogen fertilizer
 - Aerate
 - Increase mowing frequency
 - Apply broadleaf herbicide
 - June -Spot treat for nutsedge
 - Aerate
 - Apply nitrogen fertilizer
 - Top dress as necessary
 - Sprig any bare areas
 - July -Apply nitrogen fertilizer
 - Verticut and aerate
 - Aug. -Apply nitrogen fertilizer
 - Apply additional potash for winter hardiness
 - Begin to raise cutting height
 - Aerate
 - Sept. -Overseed with perennial ryegrass
 - Apply starter fertilizer plus iron
 - Oct. -Apply a complete nutrient fall fertilizer
 - Winterize irrigation systems

- b) Cool season turf (Fescues Ryegrasses, Bluegrass)
 - March/April -Commence mowing as growth begins
 - Apply pre-emergent herbicides
 - Apply Broad Leaf Herbicides
 - Top dress as necessary
 - Repair seed as necessary
 - May -Fertilize lightly
 - May-Oct -Aerate- minimum monthly
 - Jun -August -Irrigate as needed
 - Sept./Oct. -Apply fall complete fertilizer
 - Overseed as necessary

- c) Field layouts - mark and paint fields as required by coaches
 - Repaint weekly or as needed for games

- d) Inspect all facilities for litter, fence repair, safety hazards and any other problems on a regular basis.

4. Hard Surface Maintenance

- a) Asphalt - Inspect streets and parking lots 4 times a year and repair any potholes.
- b) Painting of parking lines - repaint once every 4-5 years.
- c) Crosswalks and directional arrows - repaint each year.
- d) Concrete sidewalks and stairs - Inspect 2 times a year and repair as required.
- e) Storm drainage system - Inspect for damage and clean debris annually.
- f) Signage - Inspect BI-annually and repair or replace as required.
- g) Street and lot sweeping - schedule monthly.

5. Equipment Maintenance

- a) Check all fluid levels and grease before using.
- b) Maintain sharp blades on all cutting tools.
- c) Perform regular maintenance at manufacturer's recommended intervals.
- d) Inspect monthly for loose and broken parts and repair.
- e) Repaint equipment every other year.

6. Inclement Weather Preparedness

- a) Equipment - Inspect and check operation of all snow removal equipment in October.
- b) Supplies - Maintain stockpile of road de-icing and sidewalk de-icing chemicals.
- c) Instruct all personnel about storm condition plans in October.
- d) Inspect and prepare all equipment prior to predicted snow or ice conditions.
- e) Make all necessary repairs immediately following a storm cleanup.

7. Inclement Weather Operations

a) Storm conditions require personnel to respond to situations as an emergency. This is to help insure the safety of pedestrians and vehicles alike. In this transitional area of central Virginia, a storm condition may be snow, sleet, ice, or freezing rain. All Grounds personnel will be alert to changing conditions and weather forecasts. A storm condition may warrant 24-hour day availability and extended working hours as well as flexible scheduling. At the time of forecast, employees will be notified of potential time frame, extent of anticipated storm, and will be placed on call if required. In the event of unexpected inclement weather, the L.U. Police Department will contact the Grounds Manager, Randy Johnson.

b) The Storm Condition Plan consists of a first attack, an ongoing attack, and a final cleanup. The first attack will be to cover main streets, entrances to parking lots, stairs, walks and entrances to buildings with de-icing chemicals.

c) The on going attack involves plowing operations in an effort to keep streets, lots, stairs and priority walks open and as safe as possible. Main priority walks and stairs will be worked on a cycled schedule. Depending on expected density of traffic for activities, specified lots will be maintained during the storm. Crews will be divided into twelve-hour-on, twelve-hour-off cycles as necessary. Additional help will be called in as needed from other departments.

d) The final cleanup will take place after precipitation has ended. Priority is based on expected activity levels with the goal of having lots open and ready for business as usual as soon as possible.