



Guide to Preparing Your Yard for the Rainy Season

As the rainy season approaches, it's essential to prepare your yard to handle increased moisture and prevent potential issues. Here's a step-by-step guide to reviewing your yard and knowing when to call a licensed professional for expert advice and assistance.

1. Assess Drainage and Soil Conditions

- Check for Waterlogged Areas: Walk through your yard after a rainstorm and note any areas where water tends to pool. These spots may indicate poor drainage that could lead to erosion or flooding.
- Inspect Soil Drainage: Dig a small hole in different areas of your yard. If water sits in the hole for more than a few hours, your soil may not be draining properly.
- Evaluate Grading: Ensure that the ground slopes away from your home and any structures to direct water flow away from foundations.

2. Examine Trees and Shrubs

- Check for Overhanging Branches: Look for branches that are close to power lines, buildings, or other structures. Heavy rain can cause these branches to break, potentially leading to damage.
- Inspect for Weak or Dead Branches: Identify any dead or weak branches that could fall during storms. These should be pruned to prevent accidents or damage.
- Assess Root Stability:** Ensure that tree roots are not exposed or eroding. Strong winds and heavy rain can destabilize trees with shallow or damaged roots.

3. Review Lawn and Garden Areas

- Inspect Mulch and Ground Cover: Ensure mulch and ground covers are in good condition and properly applied. Mulch can help prevent soil erosion but should be replenished if it has worn away.
- Check Garden Beds: Ensure garden beds are properly elevated and that water isn't pooling around plants. Raised beds and proper soil amendments can help manage excess moisture.

- **Clean Gutters and Downspouts:** Make sure gutters and downspouts are clear of debris to ensure proper water flow and prevent water from overflowing onto your yard or home.

4. Prepare for Potential Flooding

- **Identify Flood-Prone Areas:** If your yard is in a low-lying area or historically prone to flooding, consider measures like sandbags or temporary barriers to protect your property.
- **Check for Proper Drainage Systems:** Ensure that any installed drainage systems, such as French drains or catch basins, are functioning properly and free of debris.

5. Call a Licensed Professional

- **Schedule a Yard Assessment:** Contact a licensed landscape professional, arborist, or drainage expert to review your yard. They can provide a detailed evaluation and recommend solutions for any issues identified.
- **Discuss Potential Risks:** Share any concerns or observations you have about drainage, tree health, or structural issues with the professional. Their expertise will help in addressing these problems effectively.
- **Create a Plan and Obtain an Estimate:** Create a plan with the landscape professional to address recommended actions and request a quote for those potential costs. This will help you make informed decisions about the necessary work.

6. Follow Up on Recommendations

- **Implement Suggested Changes:** Based on the professional's recommendations, take action to address drainage issues, tree maintenance, and any necessary repairs.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Set up a schedule for regular yard maintenance and inspections to ensure that your yard remains in good condition throughout the rainy season.

By thoroughly reviewing your yard and enlisting the help of a licensed professional, you can safeguard your property against the challenges of the rainy season and ensure that your yard remains healthy and well-maintained.