



## Landscape Services

# Safety Standard Operating Procedure

(Revised 3/2023)

### Spring Rejuvenation Pruning

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This Standard Operating Procedure covers the cultural practice of Spring Rejuvenation Pruning of ornamental bedding plants in our campus landscapes. As with any equipment or tools, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual produced by the manufacturer.

**Schedule-** Seasonal (Spring-typically early March depending on weather patterns)

**PPE Required-** Gloves, Eye protection, Hearing Protection, Work Boots/Footwear (Hi Viz Safety vest if working roadside)

**Safety Requirements-** Ensure all PPE is accounted for and in place prior to beginning task. Use road cones and or caution tape to barricade working area if needed for passing pedestrians.

**Tools/ materials-** Lysol spray or wipes, Hedge Trimmers, Hand Pruners, String trimmers, Leaf rake, Grade rake, hand blower, BP blower, Fertilizer spreader. Ensure all tools are sharpened and sanitized daily prior to beginning task.

# Time to Prune Grasses

- Reminders better to cut shorter than to leave taller dead tops
  - Mice build nests in remaining dead clumps as well as scale and other insects can overwinter and reinfest in crowns.
- In large bed plantings cut everything as close to equal in height as possible for a neater more manicured look.
- Use something to wrap tops to keep in a clump for easier trimming.
- Place dead tops in compost pile.
- Check for drip irrigation leaks.
- Topdress with milorganite only in Blue Lyme Grass, Fescue, Juncus, Liriope and Calamagrostis beds before mulching.
- DO NOT apply milorganite to other warm season native grasses!
- Mulch all ornamental grass beds after through trimming with chipped tree trimmings.
- PLEASE ASK Steve, Nick, Joh, Bret if you are not sure what grass you have or have other questions.

## Grass Pruning

Blue Fescue – may have some tip burn. Cut to green growth.



# Grass Pruning

Time to prune Juncus that has winter kill or burn



- Trim back to 2"-4" from the ground
- Juncus is planted in most every zone



## Grass Pruning

Stipa – Mexican Feather  
Grass

2 to 4 inches from ground



# Grass Pruning



Liriope or mondo grass that is winter burned. Mowed to the ground. If not burned you can leave them alone

# Grass Pruning



Calamagrostis  
Karl Forester grass

- Most zones have this one
- It will have green popping up already around 4 to 6 inches tall
- Trim dead back to green
- If burned further back cut to ground.

# Grass Pruning

## Carex species

- There are some in zones 1 and 2 for sure
- Cut as close to ground as possible



# Blue Lyme Grass

- Zones 1, 2, 4 and 6
- Trim Blue Lyme Grass to the ground using a lawn mower or string trimmer
- If there is any new growth just trim it along with the old to make it easier
- All removed foliage and leaves caught in plants should be placed in the compost pile





## Grass Pruning

Sporobolus species

Cut around 2 inches from the ground



## Grass Pruning

Chasmanthium wood oats

Cut close to ground

## Grass Pruning



Eragrostis Love Grass

- Cut close to ground

## Grass Pruning

Bouteloua Grama Grass

- Cut close to ground







## Grass Pruning

Muhlenbergia

Any species of Muhley  
grass

- Cut back to about 4 inches from ground

## Grass Pruning



Miscanthus Maiden Hair Grass

- Cut back to 2 to 4 inches from ground
- Tendency is not to cut if back enough



## Grass Pruning



Panicum Switchgrass

- Cut back to 2 to 4 inches from ground

## Grass Pruning

Sorghastrum Indian Grass

Cut back to 2 to 4 inches from ground



## Grass Pruning

Schizachyrium Blue Stems

Cut back to inches from ground



# Pruning

Time to start thinking about pruning those roses

Prune back to around 2 - 4"





## Pruning

- Cut back Nandina's that are taller and burned from the extreme cold spell to the ground a couple inches from the ground.
- Newly planted 12- 24 inch height Nandina's that are not established should be checked to see if trunks are still green and if so leave them alone for a new flush of growth.
- If the cambium layer looks brown and dead reach out to John or Nick.



## Pruning

Time to prune Juncus that has winter kill or burn



- Trim back to 2" from the ground
- Juncus is planted in most every zone



# Pruning



- ◆ Apply milorganite before applying Rose, Juncus and Nandina mulch.
- ◆ Catmint does not need to have a milorganite application, but should have pre-emerge and mulch.
- ◆ In all cases use ground ice storm damage mulch to freshen up.

# WAIT

The following should be left alone for a few more weeks to see how severe the damage.



- ◆ Other winter burned evergreen shrubs and hedgerows, like:
- ◆ Eleagnus
- ◆ Dystilium
- ◆ Dwarf Yaupons
- ◆ Hollies
- ◆ Loropetalum