

BASIC BED MAINTENANCE PRACTICES:

- Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove potential sources of plant disease.
- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground.
- Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits also are available for slug control; iron phosphate baits are safe to use around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

BASIC LAWN MAINTENANCE PRACTICES:

- Optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Reduce the risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- Optimum time of year to dethatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.