

# Monthly Rhythm — Houseplants + Yard Trees

One-page cadence for indoor plants and the trees in the yard

## MONTHLY RHYTHM — HOUSEPLANTS + YARD TREES (America/Chicago)

### JAN

- Light is scarce: group plants at the brightest windows; protect Calathea from drafts.
- Water less; always check soil before watering.
- If ground is thawed and it's been dry, give young evergreens a deep drink.

### FEB

- Similar to Jan; begin watching for the earliest signs of new indoor growth.
- Take inventory: potting mix, fertilizer, clean shears, mulch for spring touch-ups.

### MAR

- Wake-up month indoors: repot/top-dress as needed; resume light feeding.
- Prune, rotate, and flush salts thoroughly (discard runoff).
- As soil thaws, begin deep watering \*\*young trees\*\* during dry spells.

### APR

- Stronger light: increase indoor watering frequency as needed.
- Propagate pothos/spider plantlets; tune supports/poles.
- Refresh mulch rings around trees; check for winter damage and prune broken branches.

### MAY

- Growth on indoors: half-strength fertilizer every 2–4 weeks (not Aloe; be gentle with Calathea).
- Move light-hungry plants closer to bright windows (avoid scorch).
- Deep watering for young trees during dry weeks; keep mulch 3–4" deep and off trunks.

### JUN

- Heat/airflow: check indoor soil 2–3x/week; use a gentle fan.
- Harvest basil regularly; pinch flowers.
- In drought, water young trees weekly with a deep soak rather than frequent sprinkles.

### JUL

- Consistency wins: steady indoor water rhythm; wipe dust from leaves.
- Inspect weekly for pests; isolate & treat early.
- For yard trees, monitor for drought stress and consider a deep soak every few weeks even for mature specimens in long dry spells.

### AUG

- Hold the line: don't over-feed; keep air moving indoors.
- Plan fall positions (brighter indoor spots as sun angle lowers).
- Check mulch and soil moisture under trees; prep for fall watering before freeze-up.

### SEP

- Taper houseplant feeding; prep Christmas cactus for long-night, cool-night bud-set.
- Flush salts if tip-burn appears on spider plants.
- Water young trees deeply if early fall is dry; top up mulch.

### OCT

- Continue Christmas cactus bud-set routine; keep evenly moist, then hold steady once buds form.
- Deep clean/prune indoors; sanitize tools between plants.
- Continue deep watering young trees until the soil begins to freeze.

### NOV

- Prepare for winter: lengthen indoor watering intervals; cluster for light; pause fertilizer.
- If the ground is still thawed and conditions are dry, give evergreens and crabapples a final deep drink.
- Check and repair mulch rings for all yard trees.

### DEC

- Light scarcity peak: brightest window, careful watering indoors, no fertilizer.
- After Christmas cactus bloom: rest slightly drier ~6 weeks.
- Watch snow loads on young spruce branches; gently knock off heavy, wet snow that bends them.