

## Manse care - Garden Maintenance

According to CPD guidance, in the garden occupants of manses should be expected to ensure:

- that all hedged and shrubs have been trimmed or pruned at the appropriate time
- all lawns cut
- all beds weeded
- all garden rubbish removed from the premises
- all greenhouses and sheds emptied and swept out
- the garage emptied and swept out

Exceptional circumstances will occasionally arise in which, for various reasons, occupants are unable to fulfil this basic obligation - in which case arrangements should be negotiated with the Circuit (or District) Managing Trustees.

Examples of more exceptional circumstances with regard to garden maintenance: that may require professional help include:

- tree felling, lopping, pruning or hedge-cutting/trimming at a height for which a ladder is reasonably required unless necessitated by the occupant's failure to trim or prune regularly
- replacing boundary walls and fences
- large expanse of lawn or steeply sloping lawn
- removal of ivy, wisteria or other climbers in order to maintain garden walls and fences or manse walls and gutters and drain pipes in good repair and condition
- any other garden maintenance work agreed with the occupants by the Managing Trustees prior to taking up occupation of the manse or agreed during occupation.

Note that:

- the decision by an occupant to employ someone to carry out garden maintenance shall not of itself entitle the occupant to be reimbursed by the Managing Trustees out of Methodist Church funds.
- in any case where reimbursement is sought, the occupant shall obtain the Managing Trustees' agreement to the nature of the work and the charge or hourly rate to be incurred.