

NICHOLSONS

Garden Management Services

nicholsonsgb.com

Nicholsons have been working with us for less than a year but already I can't imagine how we would manage without our gardeners, Clare and Stephen, and the brilliant work they do in our garden.

They are both extremely friendly and knowledgeable and very willing to share their thoughts and experiences on plants, trees and vegetables, as well as caring for the wildlife on our patch.

Private clients

Oxfordshire

Garden Management Services

At Nicholsons, we design, create and manage beautiful spaces for people and the planet.

With a reputation for expert advice, style and quality, Nicholsons provide a holistic approach to environmental services, supporting clients from initial concept through to delivery and management.

Our passionate team of over 160 professionals across Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire and the South West have in-depth industry knowledge, combined with a pragmatic approach to environmental project management.





Our team of professional gardeners offer an array of garden management services, including pruning, weeding, staking and mulching, lawn care, hedge trimming and border maintenance. We undertake site assessments and soil evaluations so your gardener truly understands your garden's advantages and potential challenges.

To achieve the first class results we take pride in at Nicholsons, we champion collaborative relationships between clients and their gardeners. In support, the departmental office team provide an additional point of contact, scheduling garden management visits as well as assisting with resources and plant ordering.

Whether you have a professionally designed garden, a newly planted scheme or something in between, our team can offer specialist advice and practice to truly make the most of your plants and garden.

It would be our privilege to manage your garden for you.

Additional Services

Nicholsons is proud to be a multidisciplinary organisation and offer services across the breadth of horticultural, landscaping, forestry and environmental works. If you require additional assistance with your garden outside of garden management, please view our Nicholsons brochure for further information.

In addition to our regular garden management services, we also offer garden consultancy. Please read below to explore the full extent of our consultancy offer.

Garden Consultancy

For gardens requiring rejuvenation or new planting schemes, we offer a bespoke service tailored to your garden's needs.

Our consultancy service provides clients with professional horticultural knowledge alongside expert planting design, offering support with the following areas:

- Rejuvenating existing borders
- The creation of new planting schemes, including boosting seasonal colour, adding bulbs or container planting
- Screening solutions
- Problematic borders with specialist requirements
- Coaching for you or your gardener to get the best outcomes for your garden

Jane Ball, Nicholsons' Gardening Consultant, has worked at Nicholsons for almost 20 years and her extensive plant knowledge and garden management background optimise outcomes for your garden. Jane works collaboratively with clients to develop gardens and is passionate about creating cohesive, beautiful and abundant spaces, working in harmony with any ongoing garden management.

Jane's consultancy rate is £108 per hour (including VAT), including Jane's travel time and mileage within a 30-mile radius of our Oxfordshire office, Jane's time in the garden with you, a summary of her suggestions and any quotations. Up to three revisions are included within this rate.

Any follow-up visits or additional planning would be charged at the same hourly rate.

To find out more about this service, please contact the Garden Management Department on gardenmanagement@nicholsonsgb.com or call the office on 01869 340342.

When we moved in, the garden around our house was a little sorry for itself and overgrown, as is often the case when houses change hands and building work needs to be done. Andy, our Nicholsons gardener, has worked tirelessly to bring the lawns and flowerbeds under control.

Above all, Nicholsons have worked closely and attentively with my wife and I to understand our preferences and help us achieve improvements over and above the demanding work of maintenance. The proof of concept was when spring arrived and the garden came to life in a way that was deeply rewarding.

Private clients

Oxfordshire



Frequently Asked Questions

At Nicholsons, our philosophy is centred around our values of creativity, dedication and passion for our planet. As such, we uphold standards of practice to support these principles and ensure we continue to provide a high level of service to our clients.

How frequent are my garden management visits?

Your Nicholsons gardener will visit your property for a minimum of one full day (8 hours) a week unless otherwise agreed with the company.

How much do you charge?

£275 per day plus VAT per gardener for a full day's visit - (8hrs). This includes travel time to and from your property.

If a Head Gardener is required for the garden, you will be enrolled onto **the premium client package for £295 exc. VAT for a full day's visit (8 hours incl. travel time).** This is offered as either a premium flexi contract or on a premium fixed rate depending on whether additional team members are required to attend or just a regular Head Gardener.

Benefits of our premium package include:

- A dedicated Head or Senior Gardener to oversee your garden (depending on size and scope of garden) with the exception of annual leave cover or staff sickness.
- Reduced ride-on mower hire charges only (daily hire rate).
- Green incentive - two free waste away visits when regularly composting on site per year (worth £130 exc. vat).
- One seasonal visit from one of our gardening consultants (one hour) to discuss planting options and border renovation.
- End of year summary report from Head or Senior Gardener.
- Quarterly walk arounds - quality checks with management or a consultant.
- Full NDA and discretionary clients will automatically be enrolled due to nature of contract.

Please note that this service does not include sundries, waste away, materials, grass care programmes or hire charges, which are charged at an additional cost.

If you are interested in joining or upgrading to the premium client package, please contact the office.

£295 per day plus VAT for working outside of normal hours, Monday to Friday 07:30am – 16:30pm, which may be required in exceptional circumstances, subject to availability.

We invoice for all gardening at the end of each month and our payment terms are 14 days from the date of invoice. This will include any additional plants or materials that have been used for your garden.

Are there any additional charges?

Any additional administration, quotations or planning for your garden will be undertaken in your allocated gardening time. Additional projects outside of ongoing management will be subject to a consultancy fee.

For small to medium sized gardens, the rate includes the use of ready to use sprays; pest, disease and weed sprays, tying-in twine and slug pellets. Any full bottles used will be charged for.

£25 plus VAT per load is charged if a small trailer to remove green waste is required. There is a £65 plus VAT charge per load if a larger trailer is required. Small bags of green waste are removed for free.

There is a £120 plus VAT charge for each visit for a ride on mower if required for large areas of grass cutting or any additional specialised equipment is needed. We advocate the use of any composting facilities that you have available, however if you do require green waste to be taken away, the gardener will leave your premises in time to be able to travel back to our yard and dispose of the waste by 16:30pm.

Our gardener will usually park their van on your premises. If your residence is in a parking permit area, you will need to provide a permit for parking. If there is a parking meter, please advise of the charges at the time of booking. Any costs incurred for parking will be charged to you through invoicing.

Why is my gardener using their mobile phone / tablet?

On your first visit with our team, a full risk assessment will take place in accordance with our health and safety policy. Your designated gardener will complete this task using their work phone and it will take around half an hour. The risk assessments will be routinely checked by any gardeners that enter the garden and will be revised accordingly.

At the end of each visit, the gardeners are required to fill out a diary page, logging the work they have undertaken and outlining any sundries used. This will be carried out on a work mobile and will be completed in your allocated time.

During the gardener's day, they will take two half-hour breaks, one in the morning at approximately 10:00am and for lunch at 13:00pm (you do not pay for this break time).



For three years, Rob has been gardening for me and, hand on heart, I can say he is a gardening magician! His calm, positive and reassuring disposition is a pleasure to work with, and his dedication and enthusiasm for the garden shows in his hard work.

Over time, his understanding of the space has grown and after his visits, the garden always appears to be smiling. I'm so grateful to him!

Private client

Oxfordshire

Why do I need two gardeners to attend sometimes?

If the gardener is required to work at height for hedge cutting, tree pruning, pond work or any other jobs of this nature, we will organise for two gardeners to attend the garden, which will be charged at an additional full day's rate.

My garden is in a conservation area - do you take special measures?

We will not undertake any work in a conservation area without checking that we are able to do so via the relevant councils' guidelines on conservation practice. If we agree that work needs to be carried out, we will apply to the council for consideration, via our forestry department. Please note that there will be an administration fee for this and that there is a lead time for processing before we can continue. The same is relevant for Tree Protection Orders (TPOs).

What about biosecurity?

As a company, we take biosecurity very seriously. The gardeners take time in between visits to wipe down their tools, to reduce the risk of contamination and bringing in pests and diseases to the following client's garden.

Box (*Buxus*) blight may take longer than expected to deal with as the gardeners will need to clean their blades after every cut. *Buxus* clippings and plants which require removal are bagged up and cable tied separately. Waste is disposed of in the general waste - on site, where possible, and not composted.

I need to cancel a visit - what notice should I give?

If you need to cancel a visit, we require one week's notice to avoid cancellation fees. We understand that circumstances change and if at any stage you would like to end your garden management contract, please provide one month's notice.

Do you have a branching out policy?

At Nicholsons, we're committed to supporting our team with progression and training opportunities, sustainable salaries and pensions as well as a wider benefits package. We are proud of our team's knowledge and skills and hope they have a long and fruitful career at Nicholsons.

Unfortunately, our gardening team have previously been put in an extremely uncomfortable position when Nicholsons' clients approach them to work for them on a self-employed basis, therefore cancelling their garden management contract with Nicholsons. If you wish to have a conversation about this, please contact the Head of the Garden Management division in the first instance to avoid putting the team in a tricky position. As Nicholsons is an employee-owned trust, we do everything that we can to look after the team, protect their long-term interests and avoid putting any strain on the wider team.

If you do wish to pursue this arrangement, a recruitment fee of 10% of the last 12 months' invoice will be charged to you. The average recruiter's fee is typically 15-20% so the reduction to 10% will go towards recruiting and training new talent for the department.

We hope that you understand and invite any questions to be sent to the Head of the Garden Management Division.

To read the full Nicholsons Garden Management terms and conditions, please click here.

The Gardening Year

December - January - February

- Add plant supports
- Clear fallen leaves
- Clean greenhouses
- Mulch borders
- Plant bareroot plants
- Protect tender plants
- Prune woody plants
- Repair fences and trellises
- Service garden tools

March - April - May

- Clear away winter debris
- Deadhead spring flowering bulbs
- Divide summer flowering perennials
- Harden off tender annuals
- Pune roses
- Scarify lawns
- Sow flower, herb and vegetable seeds
- Water and feed containers
- Watch out for pests

June - July - August

- Deadhead spent blooms regularly
- Lift and divide bulbs
- Prune wisterias
- Put up pheromone traps
- Shade greenhouses
- Sow vegetables for autumn harvesting
- Tackle black spot, rust and mildew
- Thin out fruits on apples and pears
- Review herbaceous borders

September - October - November

- Collect leaves to make leafmould
- Lift and divide hardy perennials
- Lift or heavily mulch dahlias
- Mulch borders
- Plant evergreen shrubs
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Protect non-hardy plants with cloches
- Prune climbing roses
- Scarify and aerate lawns

Agreement

I have read and understood the general Nicholsons Garden Management terms and conditions and hereby agree to commence a contract with Nicholsons for garden management services for:

Name:		
Address:		
Invoice address: *(if different from garden address)*		
Contact telephone:		
Contact email:		
Signature: *(typed or digital)*		
Date:		

Please return your signed agreement to the Garden Management Department by emailing it to gardenmanagement@nicholsonsgb.com and a member of the team will be in touch with you directly to confirm your schedule of works.

Office use only:

Customer number:		Date received:	
Received by:		Approved by:	

Nicholsons garden management team understand my particular aims - to have a garden and restored woodland that are aesthetically pleasing while also offering varied habitats to support wildlife and birds. It is a pleasure to work with gardeners who are attuned to my interests.

Private client

Oxfordshire

NICHOLSONS

LANDSCAPES | FORESTRY | ECOLOGY

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