

General Landscape Care Guide

Remember that plants are living and require special care. Once we have installed your landscape, you are responsible for the continued health and vigor of the planting. The following general instructions will help you maintain and enjoy your investment.

WATERING

(5 steps to correct watering)

1. Check all plants weekly. Check your newly planted trees and shrubs every few days for the first couple weeks. Annuals and perennials will need to be checked more often. Feel the soil around the base of the plant at a depth of 2"-3" for a small plant and 6"-8" for larger shrubs and trees. If the soil feels dry, water as directed before.
2. When the soil feels moist, do not water. Soil must be allowed to dry out between watering. A plant that is grown in constantly moist soil may die of oxygen deprivation or become susceptible to disease and pests. Over watering will deteriorate the health of a plant. For this reason, be aware of how your irrigation system waters. Improper design can be hazardous to ornamental plantings.
3. Slow, deep water is preferred. To accomplish this type of water, place a hose at a heavy trickle at the base of a plant for 5-10 minutes for small plants and longer for larger plants.
4. Maintain a mulch layer. Mulch helps to conserve ground moisture, prevent weeds, and retain moisture. A 1"-3" layer for perennials and 4"-6" layer for trees and shrubs is recommended. Be sure the mulch is not touching the bark to prevent stem girdling roots. The use of too much mulch will result in poor air circulation and reduce plant vigor.
5. Monitoring water requirements frequently is more important than watering frequently. Monitor your plants' requirements for at least the first two to three years. Plants that are close to the house or under eaves will require closer monitoring because of heat reflection and protection from rainfall.

FERTILIZATION

1. Beds and Borders fertilizes at planting time so generally no fertilizer is needed for the first year. In subsequent years, we recommend a balanced fertilizer. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label. If you have any questions on specific requirements, please call us.

PESTS

1. Your plants are guaranteed to be free from pests and disease upon installation. We use plant varieties that are pest and disease resistant whenever possible. We also closely monitor our plant materials so that you can benefit by receiving the freshest and healthiest plant available.
2. Be observant of changes in plant vigor and growth. Poor maintenance practices such as over and under watering can weaken plants and cause them to be more susceptible to pests and diseases. If you make it a practice to walk the landscape and be observant of your plants' progress, you will spot symptoms of disease or pest infestation well in advance of serious problems.

PRUNING

1. Pruning should be minimized for good plant health. A plant will require little pruning if it is planted and spaced according to its growth and characteristics. However, you may remove dead or dying branches, crossed or rubbed branches at any time of the year. When in doubt, call us.

We hope that these tips will help you minimize time and expense in caring for your new landscape. Please call us if you have any questions regarding the ongoing care of your landscape. We would also like you to keep us in mind if you wish to add or enhance your landscape in the future.