



Plant Care and Maintenance

GENERAL PLANT WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Initial watering after plants are installed is crucial, as well as the ongoing watering management. Remember not to over-water. Always check the soil conditions at the base of the plant prior to watering to determine if moisture is present. Be sure to consider recent weather activity that may have provided plant moisture. Also check the foliage condition because if too much water is being received the foliage may be yellow. This applies to deciduous shrubs and evergreen shrubs and trees.

How to perform watering:

Always remember to break soil surface, because plants need water at the roots, not just at the surface. For all new plants a daily watering program should be established, especially in the summer when the heat is high. Ideally it is best to set the hose at the base of the plant, and water slowly. If using a hose make sure to reduce the water flow to a heavy trickle to ensure slow thorough watering. For plants 1-2 minutes is generally sufficient, however trees will need to be watered longer. The diameter of the tree determines the amount of time that is required to appropriately water (10 gallons of water per inch of diameter per week). After 2-3 weeks of watering is established on any new plant material, reduce watering, especially evergreens, a consistent once per week (depending upon temperatures) is needed throughout the season. If excessive heat (heat indexes of 100° or higher) continues, a minimum of twice per week will be required on all plants, shrubs and trees to adequately maintain their moisture balance.

Deciduous & Evergreen Watering Instructions for 1st Week After Planting (water once per day):

- Set faucet at trickle setting
- Set hose at base of plant
- Water shrub for 2 minutes
- Water tree for 5 minutes
- Water foliage on evergreens only (after watering base of plant)

Deciduous & Evergreen Watering Instructions for 2nd Week and Ongoing After Planting (water 2-3 times per week):

- Set faucet at trickle setting
- Set hose at base of plant
- Water shrub for 3 minutes
- Water tree for 5 minutes
- Water foliage on evergreens only (after watering base of plant)

Late Fall Watering:

Late fall watering is essential for evergreens and trees prior to freeze up. A good plan is to water all plant material prior to the final freeze up (normally late November) to ensure plant health throughout the winter and into the following spring. Remember 10 gallons of water per one inch diameter. It is crucial for all newly planted trees to be watered in late fall for their success into the spring.



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PLANT AND TREE FERTILIZATION

Trees and plants have been fertilized prior to their installation at your home, therefore it is not recommended to apply any fertilizer for the first year. Fertilization can be done every 2-3 years depending on the plant species. It is critical when fertilizing to apply a light watering before fertilizer is applied and a heavy watering after fertilizer is applied to eliminate burning and drying of plant roots. Timing your fertilization for early spring or late fall is crucial. Fertilizing anytime after May or before November is not recommended to ensure plant health. Plant fertilizers can be found at most hardware and green care stores. A general fertilizer is fine, but remember there are differences between evergreen and deciduous fertilizers, so be sure to read the labels and instructions to ensure proper application.

PLANTING BED MAINTENANCE

Planting beds require some maintenance. Mulch beds require slightly more maintenance, due to the fact that seedlings get trapped in mulch and sprout weeds. The best preventative maintenance program is to start initially in the spring after soil temperatures reach 50 degrees when plants and weeds start to grow. Weeding should be done in April or May depending on the season. Remember it is easier to pull weeds when the ground is moist or wet, so the earlier the better after the frost is gone, or after it has rained, will help pulling weed and root base, not just cutting the weed off at base. After complete weeding is done check all plants for light pruning or broken branches. Remember to remove all broken branches immediately to minimize stress on plants. Install a pre-emergent weed control (Preen or similar product) over entire mulch bed area. The organic approach is continually pulling weeds, adding fresh mulch yearly will minimize weed growth in either application, if you do not want to use pre-emergent weed control.

PRUNING AND WEEDING

Pruning or cutting back plants is critical to plant health and performance. For most plants, annual pruning should be done in the early spring or late fall to control the shape and size of the growth. *See our pruning guide on the next page.*

Regular pruning throughout the growing season is done to harvest flowers, remove dead or diseased foliage or branches, and to create light penetration and airflow to the interior of the plant in order to increase bloom and overall plant health. Pruning should always be done with clean cutting blades to prevent the transfer of disease. Removing invasive weeds is another important maintenance job; it not only looks tidy and shows off your plants to greater effect, but removes competition for water, soil space and nutrients.

Pulling weeds when you see them, cultivating the soil around existing plants and mulching around your plants will keep weed growth down to a minimum.



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GENERAL PRUNING SCHEDULE

Refer to these numbers in the pruning chart below:

1. Winter: December, January, February. This helps prevent disease and insect infestations. A bleeding of sap doesn't hurt trees.
2. Spring: Before growth starts, usually because plant flowers on new wood, or because plant is grown for foliage effect.
3. Early in growing season: Generally May-early June.
4. During growing season: Pines should be pruned before candles (new growth have fully opened and become woody), usually in early May.
5. Right after flowering: Usually done because plant flowers on old wood.
6. Summer: Best time is when it is not rainy and humid. Locust should be done after July 15th.
7. Fall: Best done when plant has lost its leaves for the year.

PLANT	#	PLANT	#	PLANT	#
Almond, Flowering	5	Elder	2	Pine	4
Apple	1	Elm	1	Plum (fruit)	1
Apricot	1	Euonymus	2	Plum (ornamental)	5
Arborvitae	3	Falsespirea	2	Poplar	1,7
Ash	1,7	Fir	2	Potentilla	2
Aspen	1,7	Forsythia	5	Privet	5
Azaleas	5	Ginkgo	2	Rhododendron	5
Barberry	2	Hackberry	1	Rugosa Shrub Rose	2
Birch	1,7	Hawthorn	1	Serviceberry	5
Boxwood	3	Hemlock	3	Smoketree	2
Buckeye	2	Honeysuckle	5	Snowberry	2
Buckthorn	2	Hydrangea	2	Spirea (Anthony Waterer, Goldflame, Curly Leaf, Daphne, Froebeli)	2
Cherry, Canada Red	1	Ironwood	1,2		
Cherry, Meteor North Star	1,2	Juniper	3	Spirea (Arugula, Fairy Queen, Snowmound, Prunifelia, Vanhoutte, Thunberg)	5
Cherry, Nanking Red Leaf	5	Lilac	5		
Cherry, Plum	1,2	Linden	1	Spruce	2
Chokeberry	5	Locust	1,6	Sumac	2
Chokecherry	5	Magnolia	5	Tamarack	2
Coffeetree, Kentucky	1,2	Maple	1,6	Tamarix	2
Coralberry	2	Mockorange	2	Viburnum	5
Corktree	1	Mountain Ash	1	Walnut	5
Cotoneaster	1	Ninebark	2	Weigela	2
Crabapple	1	Oak	1	Willow	1,7
Currant, Alpine	2	Olive Russian	1	Winterberry	2
Deutzia	5	Pear	1	Yew	3
Dogwood	2	Peashrub	5		



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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NEW SOD

Lay sod within 24 hours or the same day during hot temperatures.

1. Sod goes into shock when it gets cut and transported to your home.
WATER... WATER... WATER... WATER... IS THE CURE!
Water your sod even as it is being installed throughout the day.
2. **WATER YOUR SOD EVERYDAY FOR THREE WEEKS;**
Sod is like a wet sponge. It is moist when laid down. If it is not watered immediately, the sod will shrink and will not return to its original size even when next watered. If your sod looks dry or has a bluish look, it is already damaged or dying. If it has gotten too dry but has been watered, cracks between sod pieces will remain evident.
3. **WATER** long enough that when you step into the sod it is squishy. It takes approximately 12 hours to soak the sod with a sprinkler that is constantly watering the sod area. If using an oscillator that rotates back and forth, or one that moves up and down, these sprinkler styles will take twice as long to water the area... three hours. Remember to be sure and overlap your watering, otherwise you will have a line area where the sod will dry up and die. If it rains, consider that one day of watering, not a week. Watering daily takes less water to keep the sod moist, but light sprinkling of the area encourages weak root growth.
4. Water the sod every other day after three weeks. After 3-4 weeks your sod should be well rooted. In other words, your sod roots have gone down into your soil and taken hold. Remember it is proper routine to try not to water after 8:00 pm, because it is a prime time for fungus to start growing.
5. **WATER... WATER... WATER... DURING THE HOT TEMPERATURES.**
6. The appearance of mushrooms in your sod is usually a sign of over-watering. Reducing your watering slightly will eliminate mushroom spores from your sod.
7. Wait 12 weeks before mowing your sod. Things to consider:
 - Check root retention - pull on sod to check (not too hard).
 - If sod pulls up too easily, wait three additional days and re-check.
 - If sod is not properly rooted you will scalp sod.
 - Set mower on the highest level to eliminate scalping.
 - Be sure to bag all your clippings for the first three months.



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8. Once your new sod is rooted cut the grass at 2-3 inches high, not shorter, and remove clippings.
9. September fertilizing is recommended for new sod, however, do not fertilize for the first 60 days after sod is laid. For sod laid down in fall, fertilize in May.
10. Fertilizers can be found at hardware or green care stores. The best fertilization programs have preset fertilizers for spring, summer and fall applications. Fertilizing 3-4 times per year is more than adequate. If you choose to fertilize, always read your instructions, because remember over-fertilizing will burn your grass and many fertilizers require the grass to be damp upon application. Watering after fertilizing is recommended, check your product instructions.
11. Fertilized grass is healthy enough to crowd out most weeds. Spray with weed killer (as you see fit). Spraying promptly will keep a small weed infestation from spreading further.

SEEDED LAWN AREAS

Seeded areas require attention, and usually lots of it. A seeded area requires light continual watering. Heavy watering will wash away or flood the seeded areas, but insufficient watering will prohibit seed growth. The best approach for seeded areas is to hand water lightly on a daily basis to moisten the soil. Stop watering when water starts to puddle or pool and flood the seeded areas. Remember seeded areas may require watering twice per day when temperatures are high. Continue watering the seed until heavy stand of grass is apparent. A starter seed fertilizer can be applied if soil conditions warrant, otherwise wait approximately 2 months before starting a fertilizing or weed control application.