



Unique Garden Centre

Maintenance Guidelines for your New Landscape

To keep your new trees and shrubs healthy and able to resist pests and disease, a regular maintenance program should be followed. The following are basic points, covering a wide range of situations.

Watering

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be kept evenly moist for the first month after planting. One and one-half inches of water every 3-5 days should be applied. Temperatures above 26 degrees Celsius, with high winds and a full sun location may warrant more frequent watering. Periodically hand checking the moisture level will allow you to better judge frequency of watering. Watering before noon is preferred, to ensure the soil is moist for the heat of the day and to reduce risk of disease. A mulch will assist in holding moisture, reduce soil temperature fluctuations in the root zone and reduce weeds. Perennials require more frequent watering due to the reduced root mass. Newly seeded or sodded lawns must not be allowed to dry out. Keep root zone moist with frequent light waterings. As the grass roots grow into the soil below, approach a normal watering schedule of a deep watering (1 to 1 1/2") weekly. Frequent cuttings with the mower set at a higher setting of 2" reduces the water requirements of a lawn.

Pruning

Early light pruning to young shade trees is easier and results in a stronger healthier tree. Every year all dead, damaged and diseased wood should be removed. Year 1 and 2 requires no further pruning. In year 3 and 4 remove double leaders, crossing branches, water sprouts and a few lower branches to begin to develop clearance. Choose main branches that have a wide crotch and are well spaced around the tree and remove others. In year 5 to 7 continue to monitor health and shape as well as increase clearance as required. The best time to prune is between March to mid-May. Exceptions to this would be Maple, Willow and Birch which should be pruned June or July. It is prohibited to prune Elm between April 13 to July 31 because of the concern regarding infection of Dutch Elm disease.

Shrubs should be pruned yearly. On mature shrubs remove about 1/3rd of the old wood after removing any dead, damaged or diseased wood. Shrubs that bloom before June 20 should be pruned after flowering. Shrubs blooming later should be pruned before new growth emerges in the spring.

Evergreens generally only require corrective pruning, removing dead, damaged and diseased wood. Pruning may be done in spring to increase density by pruning off half of the new growth.

Fertilizing

Trees and evergreens benefit from fertilizing ever 2 to 4 years. Evergreens require a higher nitrogen fertilizer such as 30-10-10 mid to late May. Fruit and shade trees benefit from a higher phosphorus fertilizer such as 15-30-15 mid to late May. Shrubs prefer a twice yearly fertilizing schedule, with a high phosphorus blend, applied mid May and mid June. Perennials also prefer a high phosphorus blend, applied monthly ending early August. Turf benefits from a monthly fertilizing schedule as follows: early May with a higher phosphorus blend, early June, July and August with a higher nitrogen blend and early September with a higher phosphorus blend.

Pest and Disease Control

The best method of pest control is a healthy plant which can be achieved by regular watering, fertilizing and frequent checking to catch problems in the early stages. Tree banding in the late summer and early spring can significantly reduce canker worm problems. Weekly hosing of evergreens during periods of hot dry weather will reduce spider mite problems. Avoiding late day watering will reduce disease problems. Removing any diseased plant material promptly will limit further spread.

Winterizing

Well cared for plant material has an improved ability to withstand winter injury, thus spring and summer care is **very** important.

As fall approaches, reduce watering **but** soak soil around plant material before the ground freezes in the fall. This is usually around mid October but may be later if we have a late dry fall. If snow cover is unreliable, apply a mulch to trees, shrubs and perennials after the ground has frozen down one inch.

Trees benefit from a wrap around the trunk and lower branches to protect against sun scald on thinner barked trees as well as to provide protection from rodent damage. Repellants are also available to help control feeding damage.

Evergreens face an additional winter challenge since they lose moisture through their needles all winter. Sun scald and wind burn are the most common reasons for winter damage. Protective barriers from sever winds and from sun exposure will reduce winter browning. These barriers can be cardboard, burlap, canvas or anti-transpirants such as Wilt-Pruf.

Turf should be cut shorter for the last mowing before winter and raked free of leaves to reduce matting and disease problems.**Error! Not a valid link.**



For more detailed care instructions call **789-1010, 777-0190** or stop in at **Unique Garden Centres** at the corner of Broad and 6th Ave. N. and pick up more detailed information sheets.