



Caring for your new landscape

Watering: Your plants are depending on you to keep them healthy and growing, please use the following guidelines to give them what they need to do so. Improper amount of water during the first few growing seasons is a major cause of plant loss. The limited root system on these plants makes it highly susceptible to dry weather damage. Supplemental watering is absolutely necessary for all plants if we have not had excessive rain. Even average rain events, unless frequent, may not water new plants sufficiently to sustain good health (raingarden, natives, and heat tolerant plants too!) Over watering can also be an issue, so keep track of plants in lower areas where water collects and watering too much for your soil type.

- Ideally plants would be watered at their base where the roots collect the moisture. Wet the soil enough to soak through the root system at each watering. This will be approximately 12-18" deep for shrubs and 18-24" deep for trees. In average soils this will be about 5 minutes for shrubs and 20-30 minutes for trees with the water on a slow trickle (about the size of your pinky finger) watering long and slow will provide the deep water needed to establish deep hardy roots.
- Using a sprinkler or soaker hose: Sprinklers can be used and will need to run for longer, about 15-30 minutes in heavy/clay soil, 30-45 minutes in light/sandy soil and should be run when there is not direct sun light heavy on the plants to prevent leaf spot, early morning is best and during hot days again in the early evening when needed. Rubber Soaker hoses usually can be run for a similar amount of time, check a few plants regularly until you know your set up better.
- Water the plants 3-4 times the first 2 weeks in average weather. Then 2-3 times per week for the next month or so. During hot, windy weather please water more often to make up for evaporation, daily may be necessary, droopy plants can be a clue. For times that we have received at least 1" rainfall consider Mother Nature taking her turn at watering for you. As plants mature this schedule can be reduced gradually during the first year. Most plants are not as needy by year three and will then only need hot weather/drought watering.
- Water plants late into the fall. All trees and shrubs can benefit from watering until the ground freezes, but evergreens require sufficient moisture to retain their color and healthy needles. You may have to water after your hoses have been disconnected. This is not just for new plants but for all evergreens. Hopefully Mother Nature will keep her end of the deal, but be prepared if not.



*****Keep in mind that irrigation, unless specifically zoned for the planting beds, is typically installed to only effectively water the lawn. Please be sure to monitor and adjust the plant irrigation system often to verify it is meeting the needs of your new plants.**

To make sure you are watering right for your yard and location give a quick check to ensure an area is getting enough/or not too much water: wait at least 30 minutes after you have watered, find the base of a plant and wiggle your finger down into the soil as far as you can At least an inch, if you find any dry soil you need to water more. If you find it saturated check again tomorrow before watering as the area may be getting to much. The goal is evenly moist soil and you want the moisture to go even deeper to strengthen the roots.

Water requirements will vary with soil types (generally: sand retains less, clay retains more). Until plants are established, which may take a few years, please continue water more frequently. Please always observe dry spells and supplement as needed through the life of your landscape.

Sod: New sod needs to be kept wet for the first few weeks as it established the root system. A sprinkler is best for this application to maintain an even distribution including the edges of the sodded area. The water must not only water the top of the sod, but reach to the soil below, this will create a slightly soggy feeling to the space, but is needed for establishment. There should not be puddles. To check that you are watering enough you can pull back a corner of the newly laid sod and see if the bottom of the roll is wet- if not please water more. If it is soaked but moist to the touch and the soil below is lightly wet it's just right, if it is muddy drippy and the soil below is too it is too much water. Adjust accordingly during the first few waterings. Depending on your sprinkler it could be 5-10 minutes each watering.

Please note you will need to water 2-3 times a day initially so the sod does not dry out during the day. During higher heat this may mean a few mid day watering. Try to have the last watering before sunset so the grass blades are not wet all night. After the first few weeks the lawn starts to establish (root in) and you can gradually reduce waterings to once every 5-7 days or as weather dictates.

Mowing your new sod: You shouldn't need to mow your new sod for the first week or so. Once the grass is starting to establish and the lawn is about 5" it is time to mow. Make sure you mow before you water (you may need to hold off a watering for it to be firm enough the first few times). Set your blade high, leaving the lawn at least 3-4" as longer lawn establishes better. 2.5"- 3" is an ideal height for lawns as an on going mow height for established lawns.

Please keep foot traffic and play off new sod for the first few weeks until established. This will prevent damage and rutting in the wet soil.



Pruning: Your new landscape is young and many of the shrubs and evergreens will need to be more established before most shaping and pruning will need to be done to keep them looking tidy. Many landscapes are designed to be lower maintenance, meaning we have designed the space for how the plant likes to grow, therefore trimming should only need to be light shaping to keep things looking nice. Please refer to your plant sheets for timing of your different shrubs. Plan on trimming your low maintenance plants every 2 years and your shaped or hedged plants 1- 2 each year.

Perennial clean up: Most of the perennials benefit from having their previous years leaves and flowers pulled or trimmed out before the new growth starts. There are a few plants that do not need clean up. Please refer to your plant sheets for clean up details. Perennial clean up can happen after a few hard frosts in late fall (usually by November) allowing you to enjoy the most of your plants. Plants providing winter interest should not be trimmed in the fall, as this removes that winter interest. Early spring (March or so) is a another great time to trim plants to be ready for the season.

Weeding: Yes, even in a new landscape weeds can happen! Wood mulch should be weeded or have a preventative herbicide like Preen applied every 4-6 weeks to help prevent weeds from starting. Hand pulling is preferred method for weeds already up, but other chemical applications may be used if used with care. Maintain a 3-4" depth of mulch by top dressing with more mulch every 3-5 years. Rock mulch will need weeding along edges and over time when organic matter has settled in to the beds. Best is to blow leaves and grass out regularly to keep rock cleaner for longer.

Please visit our resources page on our website for other care tips and organic weed killer options.

Should you find that your landscape is still something you want more help with maintaining a garden service can help you with seasonal care to keep you landscape looking its best, let us know and we can refer you. One time services to help you catch up are available as well.

Thank you for choosing Trio Landscaping, please contact us if you have any questions regarding your landscape. Your plants thank you for your cooperation in keeping them healthy and growing!



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