



LANDSCAPE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

New Plant Material Care

The first few weeks after initial installation are key to the future success and health of your plants. During this time, plants are in a fragile state due to limited root mass and a reliance on stored energy. It is essential to pay extra attention to new plant material as changes in health and moisture retention may drastically change within short amounts of time. In general, new plantings will require watering 1-2 times weekly. This can vary however based on many external conditions such as soil type, temperatures, sun exposure, planting time frame and plant species, among others.

We suggest that plants are always watered from below, at the root ball whenever possible. Overhead watering can lead to fungal growth and diseases in plant material and the water droplets can lead to the burning of leaf material in direct, full sun. Watering at the root ball ensures well saturated soils at the root establishment areas and limits the potential of external issues occurring.

Intermittent Watering

New plants are still working to develop a strong root structure. During this period it is important to keep the root ball moist but not over-saturated. Intermittent watering will help to provide the roots with the water and nutrients needed for growth, while encouraging the roots to spread in search of their own water source.

Pro Tip:

Pull back mulch to check the soil saturation before watering. Soil should be tested around the edge of the root ball. You are looking for moist soils that are not over saturated with water. If soils feel dry, give the plant a thorough soaking.

Tree Care

Tree establishment can take some extra care in the first few weeks of establishment. During this time, please reference to the watering instructions above and always feel free to reach out to a representative with any questions. Soil moisture should be checked roughly 8"-10" away from the trunk. (or along the edge of the root ball) Should your tree need watering, it is best to water using a garden hose on a slow trickle for 20-30 min. Remember, do not rely on sprinkler systems to provide adequate coverage.

Over the years we have found that our trees have a higher success rate if we plant the tree with the sisal twine still attached. This helps to keep a sturdy root ball that can withstand straightening should your tree need it. More often than not this twine will disintegrate due to element exposure, however it has been reported to cause girdling to the tree trunk. We highly recommend that this rope is removed 6 months after the initial tree installation to mitigate any chance of girdling.

Pro Tip:

It is important to note that leaving tree wrap on throughout an entire growing season can lead to damages due to excess moisture, disease or insect damage.

Sod Care

Sod can help give your new landscape that finished feel that we are all looking for at the end of a project, however, special care should still be given to ensure a healthy and lush lawn for years to come. New sod needs regular watering until the root system is able to take hold into its new soil. Even after rooting has occurred, it is good to make sure you are watering thoroughly throughout the first growing season. Similar to plant watering, it is important to keep the sod moist, but not over watered.

Irrigation can be set for "new sod" however it is still important to keep an eye on moisture levels and coverage during this time. A general rule of thumb is that sod will require roughly 1/2" of water daily, through its first 2 weeks. After the 4th week, you should be able to back down to watering roughly 1", once or twice a week. We suggest waiting at least 2 weeks before the first mowing.

Seed Establishment

Our seed is typically installed with a blanket to mitigate erosion. This blanket should slowly bio-degrade over time and should be left in place throughout the establishment of the seed. Grass seed will germinate within different time frames based on the seed composition, however you should typically begin seeing germination between 5-12 days. During this time it is important to keep the seed moist and limit any movement in the area.

Pro Tip:

Intermittent watering can help to establish stronger root systems in sod and turf. This will ensure a stronger lawn in the future that can withstand more traffic and has better capabilities of regenerating any damaged areas.

Plant Bed Care

Mulch provides many benefits to your landscape including moisture retention, additional nutrients and weed control. We suggest maintaining an average depth of 3" throughout your landscape beds. Under traditional wood mulches, weed barriers such as fabric or plastic are typically not suggested and may actually deter the growth of your plants. A pre-emergent herbicide such as Preen may be used to help control weeds in such areas.

As mulch degrades, it may need to be churned or top dressed. We suggest top dressing mulch in light layers taking care to not bury any plants or build up the grade. It is important to maintain a positive grade away from the foundation of the home to minimize water and drainage issues in the future. Over time you may even feel that your rock mulch needs a fresh layer. This is often due to settling or soil compaction within the bed.

Pro Tip:

In rock beds, leaves can often be easily blown out of the bed with the use of a leaf blower. Mulch will typically require more careful raking between plants to remove leaves, however some types of mulch can hold up to a leaf blower as well.

