



LANDSCAPE SURVIVAL GUIDE

WATERING AND CARE FOR YOUR NEW INVESTMENT

- **ORNAMENTAL & SHADE TREES** (for example- maple, linden, locust, serviceberry, crabapple): Trees require a longer period of watering because of the increased amount of root area within the root ball. Typically, trees need a soaking of at least 20 minutes of water applied to the root zone area. This is accomplished by having the hose spill water out at a rate that would be comfortable to drink from and not so forceful as to erode the area around the rootball. It may be necessary to change the location of the hose every 5-10 minutes to a different location of the rootball to ensure adequate watering. Trees should be watered once every 7 to 10 days in the new landscape for at least a period of 5 weeks. Hotter temperatures in the summer may extend this period of time to establish your plant.
- **DECIDUOUS SHRUBS** (for example- spirea, dogwood, lilac, cotoneaster): Deciduous shrubs are plants that lose their leaves for the winter. They possess a smaller root zone than trees and therefore require more frequent watering. Keep the same force of water out of the hose as explained in the tree section and water shrubs for at least 5 minutes per plant once every 3 to 5 days for a period of 5 weeks. Hotter temperatures in the summer may extend this period of time to establish your plant.
- **BROADLEAF EVERGREENS** (for example- rhododendron, azalea, holly): A broadleaf evergreen is a shrub that will retain its leaves in some fashion throughout the winter. Watering is the same for the main growing season as deciduous shrubs- 5 minutes per plant once every 3 to 5 days for a period of 5 weeks. Pay special attention during hot spells since the root zone of a broadleaf evergreen has fibrous roots that are closer to the soil surface and may need supplemental watering. When the first frost of fall arrives give the plant one last watering for about 8 to 10 minutes per plant to hydrate the leaves against drying out in the winter.
- **EVERGREENS SHRUBS AND TREES** (for example- yew, arborvitae, juniper, pine, spruce): Watering is the same as explained in the deciduous shrub and tree section. As fall approaches and the first frost occurs water deeply to aid the plant against drying out in the winter.
- **PERENNIALS** (for example -daylily, coneflower, astilbe, sedum, iris): Perennials in a one gallon pot have a very small root system that will require watering once every 2 to 3 days for a period of 1 to 2 minutes per plant. Leaves that are drooping or crinkled, dried edges of leaves are a sure sign that your perennial needs some watering attention.



- **GROUNDCOVERS & ANNUALS** (for example- vinca, ivy, ajuga, petunias, impatiens, begonias): Groundcover and annuals have roots that are very close to the soil surface and must be cared for the most frequently of all plant material. Using a hose-end sprayer similar to a shower spray water the area until water starts to run off and to the sides of the plants. Progress to a different area and return for a second watering until runoff again occurs. Groundcovers and annuals should be watered once every 1 to 2 days and checked periodically during hot spells.
- **TURF AREAS:** Turf areas have the shallowest root system, mostly in the top 2-3 inches of the soil. Because this layer dries out quickly it is necessary to hand-water small areas or sprinkle large areas frequently. A good rule of thumb to establish sod or seed areas is to moderate the watering over a 4-6 week period. The first week water six out of the seven days, second week 5 out of the seven days, third week 4 out of the seven days, fourth week 3 out of the seven days, etc. The end result will be watering once a week unless rain supplies the necessary moisture. New turf areas require at least ½ inch of moisture per day. This can be measured by marking a piepan and leaving it under the sprinkled area. As you approach the fourth to sixth week watering should amount to at least 1 inch of moisture per week for the turf area.

PRUNING

- **ORNAMENTAL & SHADE TREES** (for example- maple, ash, locust, serviceberry, crabapple): Trees have had many years of practical pruning within the nursery that grew the product but may still need minimal pruning to eliminate some of the common problems that can occur. Any branch that is broken should be pruned back to the next bud in line or back to the trunk if the form of the tree can be maintained without the branch in question. Any crossing or rubbing branches are remedied by removing one of the branches to eliminate later maintenance issues. Generally, shade trees are best pruned in the winter months. A flowering or ornamental tree performs well after flowering has occurred. If pruning happens before the flowers have opened there will be a sparser bloom for the plant. If pruning occurs more than six weeks after the flowering has occurred many of the flower buds waiting for next season will be lost. Generally, for up to six weeks after flowering is the best time to prune an ornamental tree.
- **DECIDUOUS SHRUBS** (for example- spirea, dogwood, lilac, cotoneaster): Shrubs also follow the six week rule of pruning unless the shrub flowers on older wood. Most shrubs such as lilac, spirea, dogwood, forsythia, and viburnum benefit from rejuvenation pruning- a method that removes much of the older woody stems thereby leaving the younger stems in place. This pruning method allows an overgrown



shrub to be pruned back into a smaller, more shapely form while allowing the younger stems to flower, fruit, or have fall color more vibrantly than the older stems.

- **BROADLEAF EVERGREENS** (for example- rhododendron, azalea, holly): Broadleaf evergreens rarely need pruning because most of their growth is on the outside perimeter of the plant canopy. Light pinching back of new growth will more than control these lovely plants. In the case that a branch does grow out further than the main density of the leaf shell try to prune the branch back within the leaf shell to hide the pruning cut.
- **EVERGREENS SHRUBS AND TREES** (for example- yew, arborvitae, juniper, pine, spruce): An evergreen's main flush of growth occurs in June. It is evident since the new growth is a lighter green than the older growth. The new growth can be sheared or hand pruned to promote plant density. Pruning at any other time or severe, deep pruning may be detrimental to the plant growth and reveal a zone of branches unwilling to sport new growth.
- **PERENNIALS** (for example -daylily, coneflower, astilbe, sedum, iris): Perennials grow every year from the crown or base of the plant nearest to the soil surface. Any growth above ground after winter typically does not sport new growth. Most perennials are cut back to within 2" of the soil surface. Grasses should be cut back within 12" of the soil surface where the new growth will cover over the old stems. Deadheading or removing the spent blossoms is done during the year after flowering to encourage repeat flowering and also to not tax the plant with allowing itself to go to seed.
- **GROUNDCOVERS & ANNUALS** (for example- vinca, ivy, ajuga, petunias, impatiens, begonias): Groundcovers may never need pruning but some varieties like purpleleaf wintercreeper may be sheared back to encourage a denser appearance. Annuals rarely are pruned since their blooming may be compromised.

FERTILIZING

It is just as important to feed your landscape as it is to water. Your plants will delight you with lush growth and a good stand of flowers if an all-purpose fertilizer is applied in early spring to plant beds. A fertilizer will have three numbers on the bag indicating nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium concentrations. Generally a 10-10-10 fertilizer will give your plants the needed boost during the growing season. Turf areas should be well established (6-10 weeks after installation) before applying fertilizer. During spring and summer a liquid fertilizer diluted with water may be applied using a hose-end



feeder. As fall approaches granular fertilizers can be applied to acclimate the turf areas for the winter stretch.

WEEDING

Any time your plant beds are cultivated or rototilled there is a chance for weed seeds inherent in the soil to grow. Just as your new plants benefit from a loose garden mix so to will weed seeds find an optimal environment. Care should be taken to mulch these areas with at least 1" of shredded hardwood mulch for perennial areas and 2-3" mulch for shrub or tree areas. Any addition of a mulch will provide a barrier between the air and soil which should keep most weeds in check for a while. Just remember that weed seeds can also migrate through the air and germinate in your plant beds. Periodic maintenance will be necessary to keep weeds from growing in your newly established plant beds.

Thank you for choosing Monarch Nurseries, Inc. for your landscape construction project. We hope this guide helps you understand some of the basic care required to get the most out of a landscape planting. Please call on us with any questions regarding maintenance of your investment.

Additional Services upon request:

- Irrigation - Installation, startup/shut down, repair, and service
- Turf fertilization and weed control
- Turf rejuvenation and establishment - overseeding and sodding
- Core aeration and dethatching
- Ornamental plant pest and disease - monitoring and control
- Landscape Design and Installation service
- Landscape Lighting
- Outdoor living spaces (Kitchens, Fireplaces)
- Pond or Pondless waterfalls and Ecosystems
- Brick paver restoration, cleaning, and sealing
- Landscape maintenance (pruning, weeding, fertilizing)
- Spring and Fall Clean ups