



Caring For Your New Landscaping

Sod Care

Watering

Water new sod immediately upon installation and continue watering daily for 10 to 14 days after installation. Water in the morning. The afternoon may be too hot, and the evening too cool. Water that sits on sod over night potentially leads to fungus problems. Especially important are the sod seams, as well as any portions of the sod bordering concrete or other porous material. These areas can dry out quickly. Weather conditions will be an important factor in the amount of watering required. For the first 7-10 days, water sod thoroughly so that you cannot walk on it without sinking in. But don't walk on it, because once it is depressed, sod will stay depressed! (Do not allow water to "stand" on your sod or you have watered too much!)

After sod has been established (when it does not pull up when gently tugged) a watering of 1-2" per week should be sufficient. A good watering once or twice a week is generally more helpful than light sprinklings daily.

Mowing

After rooting (approx. 10 - 14 days) new sod should be ready to mow. Let it dry out enough for mowing first! The first time, set the mower to its highest setting to prevent shock to the root system. Gradually decrease the mowing height to 3". Try not to remove more than 1/3 the leaf blade when mowing as this will cause stress to the turf.

Fertilizing

Do not fertilize your sod directly after installation. Once well established (Hively Landscaping recommends one season), you can follow a regular fertilization program per manufacturer's directions to keep your lawn lush and weed-free. Do not use weed or crabgrass chemicals in the first year. If you feel the situation is extreme and threatening, spot-treat only, and read and follow all label directions

Perennial Care

Watering

Perennials need to be watered well immediately after planting. For about 2 weeks after that, you should check plants daily to be sure the ground around them has adequate moisture. WATCH FOR WILTING PLANTS! After that, perennials should be watered 1" of water every week (either by rain or you). During dry and/or windy spells, you may have to water every other day! Let the soil and the plants be your guide. By watering thoroughly and then letting the top of the immediate soil become somewhat dry you encourage roots to spread out in search of moisture. Remember that perennials come back year after year so properly maintaining them will lengthen their life span.

Deadheading

Deadheading is the process of removing the spent (dead) flowers from perennials. This is done for two reasons; to improve the look of the perennial and/or to encourage reblooming of flowers. Remember that deadheading and cutting back your perennials encourages growth. Below are the directions for deadheading specific perennials.

Coral bells, Daylilies and Hosta: All of these perennials have center flower stalks. After they are done blooming, you can cut the center flower stalk all the way to the ground. If you choose to leave the flower stalk, it will turn brown and eventually fall off on its own.

Salvia and Lady's Mantle: These flower spikes can be cut back when the blooms are all spent. Cut down to the top set of leaves that are below the spent bloom. You may get repeat blooming on some of these perennials.

Black Eyed Susan, Purple Cone Flower, Coreopsis and Daisy: Cut back the spent blooms down to the top set of leaves on the flower stalk. If there are no leaves on the flower stalk, you can cut it down to about five inches from the ground. Deadheading this type of perennial about once a week will GREATLY lengthen their bloom time.

Phlox and Butterfly Weed: This plant occasionally flops over after blooming. If this happens, you can cut back spent flowers down to the top set of leaves on the flower stalk. These usually are not repeat bloomers.

Perennial Geranium: Towards the end of summer, this perennial will sometimes flop open in the center of the plant. If this happens, you can cut entire plant down to about four inches and it will grow back with the middle section filled in.

Russian Sage, Catmint and Lavender: This perennial sometimes needs to be trimmed up if it gets leggy. The individual branches can be cut back as needed, or you can cut back the entire plant all at once. Either way, you can cut the branches as low as four or five inches above the ground. If you keep this plant deadheaded, you will get a much longer blooming season.

Sedum: This is a late blooming perennial that requires no deadheading.

Creeping Phlox, Dianthus, Thymus and Snow-in-Summer: After the entire batch of flowers is spent, cut all the flower stalks down to the green foliage. These perennials are usually repeat bloomers.

Guara: This perennial requires no deadheading.

Goldenrod: This perennial requires no deadheading.

Iris: After the flower is spent, cut off the flower stalk. The foliage (leaves) can be left as is, or they can be cut down to about six inches tall. DO NOT cut the leaves lower than six inches. The Iris is not a repeat bloomer.

Bulbs (tulips, Daffodils, Crocus): After the bulbs have bloomed, it is VERY IMPORTANT to let the foliage (leaves) turn brown and die down before they are removed. If you cut off the leaves while they are still green, you will get NO BLOOMS from that bulb next year. Although the leaves can not be cut off while still green, feel free to cut the flowers to bring in the house. This will not have any effect on next year's blooms.

Additional notes on your perennials: _____

GENERAL RULE: In the fall when all the perennials start to die down, the dead foliage can be removed, or left through the winter and removed in the spring.

Ornamental Grass Care

Ornamental Grasses are divided into two groups, cool season grasses and warm season grasses. Both groups of grasses should be cut back to about ten inches every year. If you like a clean garden, you can cut the grass back in late fall. If you want to add some winter interest to your garden, you can wait until spring to cut them back.

Cool Season Grasses: As the name implies, these grasses perform better in cooler temperatures and may require supplemental watering during hot, dry weather.

Foxtail
Quaking
Feather reedgrass
Sedge
Tufted hairgrass
Blue fescue
Blue oatgrass
Bottlebrush
June
Blue lyme
Spiky melie
Autumn moorgrass

Warm Season Grasses:

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Big bluestem | Silver banner |
| Side oats grama | Purple moor |
| Blue grame | Switch |
| Korean feather reedgrass | Prairie dropseed |
| Northern sea oats | Siver spikegrass |
| Pampas | Japanese silvergrass |
| Purple love | Small Japanese silvergrass |
| Sloth | Chinese silvergrass |
| Giant miscanthus | |
| Ribbon | |
| Plume | |
| Little bluestem | |
| Indian | |

Fertilizing

Wait until perennials are well situated in their new environment, at least one year, before attempting to fertilize. After that, if you wish to fertilize your perennials apply a granular (dry) slow-release fertilizer according to package directions.

Annual Care

Watering

Watering your annuals is mostly determined by weather conditions. Upon planting, water annuals well daily or every other day for at least two weeks (unless rain occurs). Annuals planted in containers have no additional water source to seek - once the moisture is gone, it's gone - and therefore will need to be checked daily for the duration.

Fertilizing

You may fertilize your annuals either with a granular long-term fertilizer, or with a recommended annual fertilizer (such as Miracle Gro or Peter's Plant Food). Follow manufacturer's directions. Know your annuals, however, because certain plants (e.g. nasturtiums) will use fertilizer for greenery growth at the expense of flower production!

Deadheading

Many annuals benefit from deadheading or removing spent flowers as this will encourage continued flower production.

Tree and Shrub Deciduous and Evergreen

Watering

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered immediately after planting. For the next 2 weeks at least, be sure your new tree material gets a minimum of 1" of water every other day. After your plant is established, you will need to supplement its water schedule for the first year. Using 1-2" of water every 4 to 7 days should be adequate, again either by rainfall or hand watering.

Learning to identify and understand the growth habits of your trees can be very helpful. This may take several seasons, but you will be able to notice any unusual

changes in your trees and take action to correct problems before they become severe. Newly planted trees require 2-3 years for their root systems to become fully established. During this time extra watering and special care are necessary.

Please Note: The best way to water your trees and shrubs is the slow-soak method. Although the big stream may be the most personally satisfying, a deep watering over an extended period (like a slow-drip from your hose overnight) is the best way. This will allow the moisture to go deep to the bottom of the roots. The majority of the water-absorbing roots are in the top 18" of ground.

Miscellaneous Plant Care Tips

Here are some general tips about what you can expect and things you can do for your new landscape.

1. Mulch: The benefits of mulch include reduced water evaporation; weed prevention, protection from winter freeze and thaw cycles, increased soil fertility, and a finished look. Mulch with 2-4" of composted organic matter, such as mushroom compost, leaf mold or shredded mulch. Keep the mulch away from the trunk or stem of the plant as this can cause rot.

When mulching around perennials, do not mulch too thickly because bark mulch takes a long time to break down, and can rob your soil of nitrogen. You may choose to use cocoa mulch as an alternative if you wish. Do not mulch around annuals.

2. If you use salt during the winter, beware! Salt residue can severely damage groundcovers, grass, perennials, and shrubs. Salt will bind up your plants' ability to absorb water, which is already at a premium during the winter months. Salt can also travel, no matter how carefully it's placed. A good idea is to use sand or calcium chloride for de-icing.

3. The number one factor in of your landscape's initial success is going to be watering. This is true of all LIVE landscape additions.

4. Since plant material is living material, sometimes your plant material will not survive, even with your best efforts. A few of the things that will cause this to happen are: cat/dog urine or spray, severe weather (dry winds, lack of snow cover, excessive rain or lack of rain, extremely cold winters, extended or truncated seasons), fungus, insects, and disease. These factors cannot be anticipated, and sometimes they cannot be controlled. A landscape is a work of art, and always a work-in-progress. There are too many factors beyond the gardener's control for complete success to happen often. The plant that absolutely exceeded your wildest expectations this year may not come back

next year. Losses are to be expected, even to the most attentive and knowledgeable gardener.

But your personal care will make a big difference in how your garden grows. Enjoy the items in your landscape that prosper, forget (or re-plant) the items that don't. Try something new. Keep what exceeds your expectations, and learn from what doesn't satisfy.

Your landscape is capable of flourishing and bringing you much personal enjoyment. As for proper care: you can do it!