



Lowney's Landscaping Center, Inc.

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CARE GUIDE: New Plants

Thank you for choosing Lowney's Landscaping Center, Inc. to assist you in creating a quality landscape. Quality landscaping is an investment in your property & only through proper maintenance will your investment grow in value and aesthetic appeal.

These general care guidelines are intended to assist you with a few maintenance requirements: to help promote a viable, vigorous and quality landscape as quickly as possible.

****Please remember that failure to adequately care for your plants will void any warranties.***

WATERING

Proper watering of your new plants is the most important aspect of tree, shrub and flower maintenance. Too little water may cause your plants to wilt and die. Too much water may cause them to yellow and drown. Over watering is more common in the heavy soils typically found throughout our area. Do not guess as to whether your plants are receiving the proper amount of moisture. **You should, whenever possible, physically check your soil for moisture by doing a finger test or using a probe of some kind.** If the top 2-3 inches of soil is dry, you will need to water.

***Note:** If the weather has been cool and rainy, you may not need to water at all. If it has been hot and windy, watering daily is not uncommon (especially with smaller plant material). Different varieties of plantings may require different amounts of moisture (even in the same soil conditions). When watering your lawn, be careful not to get the trees, shrubs and flowers along the edges too wet.

Deciduous Trees:

Your new tree will require regular periodic watering for two or three years after planting. A thorough weekly watering is much better for the tree than light daily watering. Generally, the guideline is 1" of water per week. ***During the very dry hot summer days 1" of water twice a week is recommended.*** To achieve the 1" of water, turn the hose to a slow trickle, so that the water does not run away from the root zone, place the hose about 6" away from the trunk of the tree, and leave it run for 30-45 minutes or until the entire root zone is soaked. Keep watering in this way until we have our first killing frost of the season.

Deciduous Shrubs:

Water deciduous shrubs thoroughly and regularly the first year following planting. Follow the instructions for the deciduous trees, as mentioned above, water approximately 15-30 min. per plant. Watering at the base of the plant is recommended, this prevents foliage burn. If you have had a whole side of your house landscaped, or a berm installed, a soaker hose is a very worthwhile investment. Wrap the hose around the base of each shrub/tree and then you only have to turn the water on once a week for approximately 3-4 hours. You can bury the soaker hose under your mulch to keep it hidden from view. Once established, most deciduous shrubs need little watering. A good soaking once a week during dry periods should be plenty. However, during very hot and dry periods watering twice weekly may be necessary. Some shrubs, such as hydrangeas, have a tendency to have the leaves curl in hot weather. A quick watering of those individual shrubs for 5-10 minutes should have the plant looking normal again within an hour or two.

Evergreen Trees and Shrubs:

Evergreens have a shallow root system and are more sensitive to the amount of water that they receive. Newly planted evergreens will need to be watered once or twice a week, during the first year, following the method for deciduous trees and shrubs. **Remember to check soil moisture prior to watering.** Water the base/root zone of evergreens thoroughly in November before the soil freezes to help prevent “winter burn” injury. The more water you can give the plant prior to freeze, the more water will be retained in the needles and leaves. Once plants are established watering will only be needed during periods of extended heat and drought. Check your soil conditions and look at the plantings to see if anything is out of the ordinary such as droopy new growth, or yellowing.

Perennial and Annual Flower Plantings:

Water thoroughly at the time of planting and 2-3 thorough waterings a week for the first 2 months. Continue watering on a 4-10 day cycle for the balance of the season, especially during dry periods.

FERTILIZING

Deciduous Trees:

Fertilize shade and flowering trees in early spring before buds begin to swell. Do not apply in midsummer since heavy vegetative growth may occur late in the season and could be susceptible to winter injury. Commercial fertilizers with a balanced range of nitrogen (N) - phosphorus (P) - Potassium (K) are usually best (8-8-8 or similar).

Deciduous Shrubs:

Apply fertilizer to shrubs in early spring. Most shrubs make only one flush of growth each year that ends in early to midsummer. Fertilizer applied in summer can cause new growth that can be injured in winter. Since many shrubs initiate flower buds in midsummer or later, fertilizer applied late in the season may also reduce the number of flower buds formed. Use a commercial fertilizer high in nitrogen, such as 16-8-8 or 21-0-0.

Evergreen Trees and Shrubs:

Evergreens should be fertilized in early spring and usually need less fertilizer than deciduous plants. Use a commercial fertilizer such as a 12-6-4, Muiracid, or others labeled for evergreens. Large evergreens such as spruce and pine often do not need fertilizer but it can be used to stimulate growth.

Perennial and Annual Flower Plantings:

All perennial and annual flowers should be fertilized every 3-4 weeks with a liquid or slow release fertilizer (i.e. Miracle Gro or Osmocote) per product instructions.

PROTECTING YOUR PLANTS

Weeds: Hand pulling, light and frequent cultivation or the application of Round-Up offer the best control of weeds. In most cases pre-emergent weed controls can also be used. There is no 100% control, but these methods can help to reduce the number of weeds.

Insects/Disease: Adverse stress on plant material is the main cause of most insect and disease infestations. Proper watering is usually the best cure. If an insect infestation occurs, pesticides, or insecticides (or insecticidal soaps) may need to be used. EXTREME CAUTION should be taken when using these products. FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS LABEL CAREFULLY!!

Rodents: Rabbits, mice and deer do the most damage to plants during the winter months. Protect your plants by wrapping or installing bait near them. Repellants are effective in some case and we highly recommend the use of Deer Bags for your deer and rabbit repellent. If using fencing, be sure to use hardware cloth and not chicken wire. Painting the fence white and/or using white wraps around the tree trunks, also helps as a deterrent.

WINTER DAMAGE: Evergreens and broad-leaved evergreens that have been transplanted during the late summer or fall should be sprayed with an anti-desiccant the first winter (i.e. Wiltpruf). This will help avoid winter burn (Loss of moisture that causes browning of leaves or needles). *Follow the manufacturer’s label carefully to avoid specific varieties that are listed not to spray.