

# Land Escapes Inc. Plant Care Information:

The first season is the most critical for helping to establish newly planted or transplanted perennials, shrubs, and trees in any landscape. Naturally occurring conditions that may have a positive or negative effect on survival include weather conditions, pests, and diseases. First year plants are always more susceptible to these factors than more established plants. To help encourage good health and growth of your newly installed plants, we have put together the following list of care suggestions. Remember that soil type and weather conditions including rainfall, temperature, and wind, will need to be taken into consideration as they may alter the general recommendations. Please feel free to call if you have any further questions. (See the Land Escapes Limited Plant Guarantee for more information.)

**Watering:** This is the most important thing to do to care for your new plants. Too much or too little water can lead to weak, diseased, or dead plants. We recommend “deep watering” plants individually if possible for the first couple of weeks after installation. Do this by holding a hose at the base of the plant and letting it run for a few minutes until the ground is no longer soaking up the water. If you experience run-off due to dense or clay soil, water a little, then return to the plant after the initial water has penetrated the soil. Deep watering followed by a day or two of dry time helps encourage plant roots to grow deeper into the soil therefore building a stronger, more drought-resistant plant. It is recommended that you water your plants every other day for the first week or two, then cut back to 3 times per week for the remainder of the season. Once established, many plants should be able to withstand a number of days, up to weeks without much water depending on the plant variety and weather conditions. If you have a sprinkler system or other automatic watering method, simply keep an eye on the new plants to be sure they are being watered sufficiently. If you see signs of wilting, dry leaves, or yellowing, that could mean the plants are receiving too little or too much water and you may need to hand water them until established or adjust the sprinklers as needed.

**Fertilizing:** Most perennials, shrubs and trees should not require much if any fertilizing assuming the soil is somewhat nutrient rich. Shrub and groundcover type Roses may be given a rose fertilizer monthly during the growing season to encourage larger, healthier and more prolific blooming. When choosing a fertilizer always be sure to read the label entirely and apply according to manufacturers instructions. Too much fertilizer can cause injury to the plants.

**Mulching:** Wood mulch (except bark nuggets) is one of the best ways to maintain healthy plants due to it’s ability to help maintain even soil temperature and moisture. Mulch should be reapplied every year or two depending on the depth of application. We usually suggest a 3-4 inch layer around most perennials, shrubs and trees. There are certain plants that should not be mulched around. If any of those have been used in your garden, they will be detailed on back.

**Trimming/Pruning Shrubs:** For flowering shrubs, the general rule of thumb is if the shrub blooms in spring or early summer, prune it as soon as it’s done blooming. If the shrub blooms in the fall, prune it in early spring. Most other shrubs can be pruned at any time between late winter and late summer. We usually don’t recommend pruning after September 1st if possible. This allows the shrub time to seal off the cut branches and “harden” itself for winter, therefore there will be less risk for winter injury. When pruning most Hydrangeas, it is best to leave the old stems in the spring until you can see the new leaves opening, then go ahead and cut back to the top leaf buds. Caryoperis (or Blue Mist Spirea) should be cut back to 8-12 inches tall in early spring.

**Perennial/Ornamental Grasses:** Most perennial flowers will produce more blooms over a longer period of time if the faded flowers are kept cut or “deadheaded”. Depending on the plant this may mean cutting back an entire stem, pinching back to the next bud on the stem, or completely shearing the plant back to the new, internal growth. Some perennials such as tall asters, ‘Autumn Joy’ (or similar form) Sedum, Russian Sage, Balloon Flower, and Golden Rod can be cut to half their height in late May to produce sturdier, later blooming plants. Mums should be cut back monthly beginning in May and continuing through early-mid July to keep them from blooming too early. This will also produce fuller plants. Ornamental grasses should be cut back to around 4 inches tall in late March or early April before new growth appears.

**Roses:** There are many “rules” for proper rose pruning and care. Specifics will be detailed on back if needed. “Flower Carpet” type roses should be cut back to around 12 inches tall in late April. Dead stems or diseased foliage should always be removed from the plant to prevent further problems. “Flower Carpet” and many other shrub varieties are fairly pest and disease resistant, however it is always best to use preventative care. Most shrub and “Flower Carpet” varieties should need little if any pruning through the growing season.

*Remember to CALL or EMAIL us if you have any questions regarding the proper care and watering of your new, transplanted or existing landscape plants!*

*402.610.1767 Email: Kristin@LandEscapesOnline.com*