



CARING FOR YOUR NEW LANDSCAPE

GUIDE



First Things First

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 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 and try something new. Keep what exceeds your expectations, and learn from what doesn't.

Improving your landscaping has many benefits. Gardens create a sense of serenity, provide "another room" for friends and family to gather, and increase the value of your home. Landscaping is a great investment, but differs from other home improvement projects because it involves LIVING materials. Although your plants have been carefully selected to suit both your needs and the specific conditions of your yard and climate, plants inevitably will require upkeep.

Your landscape is capable of bringing much personal enjoyment. Here are some general tips on caring for your new addition to help it flourish for years to come.

Thank you for allowing Agema Landscape to assist you with your landscaping needs. We are grateful for the opportunity to help make your property a dream come true for many years to come!

NEW SEED

Many factors affect seed germination such as moisture and soil temperatures. Germination time will vary and weather and soil conditions will have a big part in the process. Your seeded lawn will germinate and become established over a 8-10 week period. By 5 weeks, all seeds should have germinated and will now start to thicken and become more established.

Watering

Water is the key factor to establishing seed. Be careful not to over water seed as over watering will induce disease, you should never see any large puddles in the lawn. Under watering is also bad, you should never see any cracking in the soil, keep moist at all times. Proper care and maintenance is essential to establish a healthy lawn. The goal for watering is to keep the seed moist, not wet. Slowly reduce the amount of water over several weeks, you want to train the roots to search deeper for the water that is naturally in the soil. This will strengthen & help the new seed adapt to more normal conditions

Mowing

When the grass is about 2" tall you can begin weekly mowing.

Traffic

Avoid walking on the newly seeded lawn.

Fertilizing

Weed control and fertilization can begin after your first mowing. Be careful with fertilizing new seed, you do not want to burn it. The first year we recommend using ½ the manufacturer's suggested rate for established turf. The following year you may fertilize as recommended using 4 Step Fertilizer Program.

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 (Agema Landscape 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.

TREE & SHRUB CARE (*Deciduous & 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.

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.

Deadheading

Deadheading improves the look of most plants and many perennials will re-bloom after the spent flowers are removed.

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.

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 because certain plants will use fertilizer for greenery growth at the expense of flower production!

Deadheading

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

OUR WARRANTY

Agema Landscape guarantees the installation and health of our plant material for one year. This guarantee, however, does not cover factors that are out of our control including: extreme weather, animal damage, and salt damage. In addition, the following plant materials are **NOT** guaranteed: perennials, annuals, bulbs, sod, Azaleas, Holly, groundcover and roses.

We provide complete maintenance programs to fit your property's needs and budget. We also provide basic maintenance services such as pruning, lawn mowing, fertilizer applications and etc. With any complete maintenance program contract, Agema Landscape will warranty any installations performed while under contract for as long as we are your maintenance contractor. This gives a piece of mind that your landscape will be properly taken care of and flourish over time.

It allows us to be the eyes and ears of your landscape so you don't have to!

Call us today for your free consultation!