

JANE DILWORTH & ASSOCIATES

PLANT CARE SHEET

Watering

Water stress can be the result of either too much or too little water. Either of these can lead to poor plant growth and possibly the death of your plant. When watering, there is no exact way to quantify how much to recommend because of the numerous variables that effect the need for water (wind speed, sun exposure, air temperatures, etc.). The best test is to dig down a few inches and feel if the soil is moist. If it is dry, it is time to water. Following are some general guidelines:

- Water deeply rather than frequently to promote healthy root growth
- Water early in the day
- Continue watering your plants well into November, especially evergreens
- When possible, water the roots directly rather than spraying the entire plant

Trees & Shrubs: Generally trees and shrubs need 1"-2" of water per week to penetrate the soil deeply enough to benefit the roots. Ideally you should water 1-3 times per week to achieve this.

Perennials, Groundcovers & Ornamental Grasses: Because of smaller root systems, these plants will need to be watered more frequently when newly installed. This could be every day or every other day depending on the weather conditions.

Seed/Sod: It is crucial that new sod or germinating seed is kept moist for approximately two weeks. This means watering every morning in most instances. You should also avoid all foot traffic (and pet traffic) during this time. After two weeks, the watering schedule may be reduced depending on the seasonal weather conditions. In either case, you should wait to mow the new lawn until the grass is approximately 3" tall, and you should set the mower on a higher setting. Ideally, you will never cut off more than 1/3 of the height at a time.

Pruning

At Jane Dilworth & Associates, we typically prefer a naturalized look to a heavily sheared look, with the exception of formal hedges. To control the height or wayward branches, most shrubs can be pruned using hand pruners shortly after they bloom without sacrificing next year's flowers. We also recommend pruning each branch back to a bud or node to help enhance the natural character of your plant.

Ornamental Grasses can be left up through the winter months for interest and then cut down to 3"-6" tall in late February or early March, before the plant regenerates for the spring.

Perennials should be "dead headed" throughout the season. This means removing spent flowers before they have a chance to go to seed. This can encourage additional blooms and also helps maintain the vigor of the plant.

Mulching

Our crews typically apply 2"-3" of a premium, shredded hardwood mulch to newly planted trees and shrubs. The mulch will reduce weeds, create a healthier growing environment and make the planting look finished. Because it is an organic product, it will decompose and need to be replenished periodically. In overly wet weather, the mulch may develop a harmless fungus. This can be controlled simply by raking and loosening or "fluffing" your mulch.

For additional information, you can call our office at (630) 515-1230 or visit our website
www.janedilworth.com

Please see other side for additional information