



Your plants are installed and look beautiful but now it's your turn to do some work. To help ensure your plants get the best care from here on we've put together some helpful information for you to use as you enjoy your new landscape.

WATERING

After Installation

We ask that you **water regularly over the next 2 weeks** to ensure the best start to all your new plantings. Plants can get stressed when newly installed in a new environment. Watering is the best way for them to adjust.

It's best to water in the morning. Check the soil moisture by hand daily. The soil should feel moist but not wet. If the soil feels dry, water thoroughly at the base of the plant until adequate soil moisture is regained. **Water with a hose by hand, holding the hose directly at the base of the plant. Perennials will need 10-15 seconds each. Shrubs and trees will need 30 second – 1 minute each.** Use these instructions to water all plantings unless told otherwise.

For new sod, set out a sprinkler for easier and more uniform watering. Let the sprinkler run twice a day for 1 hour each. Preferably in the morning and the afternoon. Do this for the first week. On the second week plan to only water in the morning up to 2 hours. After the initial 2 weeks water as needed depending on the weather and rain fall.

*If sod or plantings are on a slope be mindful that it may need additional watering to make up for the runoff.

*Still check soil moisture if you have an irrigation system. Irrigation is not always reliable at dispensing a sufficient amount of water

After initial 2 weeks

The initial 2 weeks of watering is very important but we recommend you **continue watering throughout the rest of the year as needed.** Plants may need additional water if they present with any signs of stress. Signs of stress can look like yellowing or browning of the leaves/foilage, leaves/foilage falling off, or the plant wilting. This can happen due to very hot days in the peak of summer or droughts. We will often notify you through email of any droughts or heat waves but it is up to you to observe your plants and decide if they need water.

Winter-Burn Prevention

With our long and unpredictable winters, many evergreens are susceptible to "winter-burn". Winter-burn is when the plants foliage dries out during winter causing damage. **To prevent winter-burn we ask you to water at least once to twice a week or as needed from October through November.** Please check the soil moisture when deciding to water. Only water when soil is dry. Water at the base of the plant for about 1 minute each. Still water if there is irrigation.

*Please water through November, even despite the colder temperatures. The ground will not be frozen until the low temps are consistently below freezing.

*Any indicators of unsuccessful watering voids your warranty on plant material.

WINTER CARE

Winter Burn

Like mentioned above, evergreens are susceptible to winter-burn. The best way to combat this is through watering late in the fall through November. If you feel that your plants may need extra care, burlap wrapping is a popular option. This will provide an extra protective layer from harsh winter winds. Burlap can also be used to create a wall, shielding evergreens from too much snow buildup against the plant. If using Burlap please be mindful of when you apply it and when you remove it. Burlap should be put on as late as possible in the fall or early winter when the plants go dormant, and removed in early spring as soon as the temperatures are consistently above freezing.

Snow and Salt Damage

With the amount of snow we get in Minnesota winters it's easy to forget that we ever had green landscapes! When shoveling off walkways and the driveway be mindful of where the snow gets piled up. Often this snow is also mixed with the salt we lay down for ice. Both excess snow and salt can cause damage to many plants. It's best to choose a spot in the yard/landscape that can handle this. Maybe an area un-landscaped or with minimal plantings, or reserve a section of the driveway. Otherwise try spreading the snow more evenly spaced out to lessen the chances of any damage.

Plants most susceptible to damage:

- Boxwood
- Arborvitae
- Most other Evergreens



RABBITS AND OTHER PESTS

Rabbits and other wildlife can be a problem to landscapes throughout the entire year. We most commonly see damage to newly installed plants that have less mature growth, or during the spring and winter when food is limited.

Things you can do to prevent possible damage is to use granular and or spray repellents. Another method is to incase the plants with rabbit proof fencing such as chicken wire. Make sure the fencing is firmly secured to the ground with sod staples or slightly buried. Rabbits are great at burrowing.

*We pick plants that are appropriate depending on the wildlife in your area, however we can't always predict if wildlife will cause damage. Every landscape is unique and is susceptible. It is your responsibility to monitor and prevent any damage after installation.

*Any indicators of animal damage voids your warranty on plant material.

PLANTS TAKE TIME TO GROW

Every new landscape takes time to grow. The first 2 years are when the landscape will look its most immature. It is important at this time to check on your plants periodically for signs of stress or damage. All plantings are still establishing themselves and may need extra care either with water, fertilizer, or protection from pest or harsh MN winters.



MAINTENANCE

If you are interested in garden maintenance we have a department of dedicated and experienced staff who can do this for you. Just call anytime or go to our website. We provide weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or one-time garden care. Please call as early as possible as our schedule does fill up quickly.

If you are motivated to do the work yourself here are some helpful tips:

SPRING - cut back any dead foliage from perennials that weren't cleaned up in fall. This is also a great time to lay down a fresh new layer of mulch.

SUMMER - dead head any finished blooms. This can help promote more flowering in most plants and keeps everything looking fresh.

FALL - clean up the garden in preparation for spring. When perennials start to die back cut down the dead foliage. This will leave you less work to do come spring. If you want to help the bugs and wildlife, leave foliage up through the winter to provide habitat.

QUESTIONS

Do not hesitate to ask about anything if you find yourself unsure about something. We want to help you maintain your landscape. Often issues can be easily resolved when caught early, and even prevent larger problems from developing.

Want to learn more about how to help care for your new garden? Here are some helpful links to more information.



WINTER

- [Gardening tip 10828](#)
- [Water your Evergreens](#)
- [What is a Fall Clean-up](#)
- [Snow-Burn](#)

RABBIT AND OTHER PESTS

- [Invest in Some Rabbit Proofing](#)
- [So Many Rabbits](#)

MAINTENANCE

- [What is a Fall Clean-up](#)
- [Garden Maintenance Schedule](#)
- [Pruning Schedule](#)

For more helpful information on how to care for your garden as well as Vegetable Gardens, House Plants and Annuals, visit our website at [Sunnyside Gardens.com](http://SunnysideGardens.com)

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