

# New Planting Care



Throughout the design and installation processes, efforts are made to minimize the time involved in maintaining healthy plants. The first year is the most critical time for the adaptation of plants to their new environment.

## Watering

Between watering, check soil moisture by digging beside the root ball 4" to 6" deep. If the soil is still moist do not water, but check again in 3 to 5 days. If roots are kept saturated, they cannot breathe and drowning may occur. To water thoroughly, the water must be absorbed by the soil very slowly. An oscillating sprinkler should run 30-45 minutes in a given area, or until you see run-off. On large trees, water should run 20-30 minutes per tree to insure deep watering. Root systems must be encouraged to grow down to find water; light waterings do more harm than good. Container-grown plants, because of the looser texture of the soil, may need to be watered more frequently; check these daily for the first 3 weeks. When plants are established they can often fend for themselves, except for in periods of drought.

## Fertilization

At the time of installation amendments are added to condition the soil for the life of the plant, however additional annual feeding will encourage healthy, vibrant plants. No further fertilization is recommended until the following growing season. All trees and shrubs can be fertilized from April through mid-July. Fertilization after July can encourage growth that does not have time to mature before winter. Two light applications are better than one heavy application. Flowering and fruiting plants require lower nitrogen and higher phosphorus (i.e.. 5-10-5, 8-12-4) This discourages too much vegetative growth and encourages root development and flower or fruit set. Generally speaking, all other plants can use a higher nitrogen ratio (i.e.. 20-10-10).

## Pruning

Tools should be sharpened and oiled on a regular basis; use the proper tools for the task at hand. Pruning is done to improve health, direct growth and increase production. Dead or diseased wood should be removed when needed at any time of the year. Spring-blooming plants should be pruned immediately after flowering. Summer and Fall blooming plants should be pruned in early spring. Plants that are used for their foliar effect are generally pruned in August after Spring growth has completely hardened off.

## Insect and Disease

These general care instructions will maximize the health of your plants, which makes them less susceptible to insect and disease problems. However, invasions do occur. We suggest treatment of individual problems as needed, consult your local garden center for specific information.

## Stakes and Guy Wires

Stakes/guy wires and tree wrap can generally be removed one (1) year after the installation date. Exposed or windy sites may require a second year of support, guy wires should be loosened after the first season.