



Landscaping & Nurseries

*Sophisticated Outdoor Designs*

***Voted Best in Gloucester County!***

## Care and Feeding of Plants

Maintenance Tips & Warranty

Congratulations, your new landscape has been designed for maximum enjoyment and minimum maintenance, but as with any living thing, a certain degree of care is required to ensure that your plants are able to grow and thrive. The following is a list of recommendations:

- A. Symptoms for over watering and under-watering can look similar. If you have a concern about a plant, take a sturdy stick and push it into the ground next to the root ball to the approximate bottom of the plant's hole. Pull the stick out and look to see if it is extremely wet or dry. (A moisture meter will also work). \*Check with us if you are not sure.

**-Newly planted plants:** Immediately after planting, water your new plants thoroughly. Use an open-ended hose running at moderate pressure. A thorough soaking will take from 20 seconds for small plants to 2-3 minutes for larger shrubs and trees.

**Watering: Water is probably the most important requirement for a landscape, and consistent watering is a must for new installations.** Always check soil moisture before watering. Small plants (in 1 gal. Container): 20 seconds  
Medium plants (in 3-7 gal. Container): 45 seconds  
Large trees (in 15 gal. Container or B&B): 2 minutes

**-Your plant's first year:** Water twice weekly with an open-ended hose running at moderate pressure, using the above guide. If drought conditions exist, water every second day.

**-Grow bag trees** should be watered every day. Rain should *not* be considered as watering.

**-Established plants** (in ground 2 or more years). During a hot, dry spell in mid-summer, established plants would benefit from occasional deep watering. Water once or twice weekly, depending on the severity of the weather according to size of plant. Proper watering practices for new plants can be less complicated if you first consider the condition and variety of the plant, environment it's being transplanted to, and the current and longer term weather patterns. **It is important to know that too much water can be as detrimental to a plant as too little water.** The manner in which water is applied can also affect the vigor and survival of the plant. Watering heavily and then not watering the plant again until it wilts can stress a plant at both ends of the scale. If you water too lightly, roots may never develop and/or grow outside of the original root ball.

The next step is to understand the needs of the plants:

- Likes moist soil constantly (few varieties)
- Likes moderately wet soil and allowed to become dry without wilting (most plants)
- Likes dry soil (few varieties)
- Likes soil constantly wet (pond and bog plants)

Then you must identify the soil type where your plants will be located.

- Sandy** – a soil consisting of mostly sand with poor moisture retention.
- Loamy** (ideal soil) – a soil combination of clay and enough sand to counteract the undesirable properties of clay, with a significant presence of organic matter.
- Clay** – soil with fine particles that become compacted and do not allow much drainage; found in most new developments.

875 Jackson Avenue, Franklinville, New Jersey, 08322 ♦ phone 856.694.2298 ♦ fax 856.694.4537  
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By knowing your soil type, you should be able to meet the watering requirements of the plants you've chosen. Do not depend on irrigation systems for watering new trees and shrubs. They are great for turf and, under "normal" weather conditions, for established healthy trees and shrubs. New plants, however, have reduced root systems and it is imperative to water them more thoroughly and uniformly around the original root ball. It is good to keep in mind when planting new plants next to established ones, that the new ones will require watering more frequently. The summer is the most stressful time for plant material, and additional watering will be needed when the temperature and humidity is at its height. Usually the irrigation system will be set to run more frequently during June, July and August, while spring and fall months will usually require less watering.

- B. **Fertilizing:** All new plantings have been fertilized by Virgo's at the time of installation, and therefore, do not need any additional nutrients during the first growing season. If your planting has been done in the spring, you will not need to fertilize until the fall. At this point, we would recommend fertilizing two times a year – late fall (October-November) and early spring (March-April) with a 10-6-4 fertilizer, consisting of 50% organics. This general fertilizer will be good for almost all plant material with a handful being placed around the outer perimeter (drip line) of each plant. By placing the fertilizer on the ground, it will allow water to dilute and slowly provide nutrients to the new roots which are extending into the soil around the plant.
- C. **Trimming:** Most new plants will be trimmed at the time of planting or soon before planting, therefore, needing no trimming during the first year. However, during the second season, we recommend plants be trimmed in mid-Spring to mid-Summer. The importance of this period is that it is a time after most plants have flowered but before the plants have began to establish their growth for the new season. By proper trimming, a plant will remain healthy and full for many years to come.
- D. **Re-Mulching:** Your new beds have been provided with a good foundation of mulch, which while providing a base for the plantings also helps to keep weed growth to a minimum. In most cases, beds will need to be toppedressed with a one-inch layer of mulch each spring, thereby keeping your planting and beds looking clean and manicured.
- E. **Weeding:** With new beds, especially those that have had topsoil added to them, you may notice some weeds developing. This is a natural occurrence, and with minimal maintenance can be controlled. Discuss with us for ways of controlling weed growth.
- F. **Pests:** Most of your plant varieties installed have been chosen for their resistance to many pests. But, no plants are 100% tolerant. Please monitor your plants for pests on a regular basis to protect your investment. Virgo's Landscaping & Nurseries, LLC treats for pests on a consistent basis as required by The NJ State Department of Agriculture.
- G. **WARRANTY:** All tree and shrubs come with a warranty provided that during the warranty period they are maintained properly. This warranty is for a one year period during which plants will be replaced only once during that period. This is no warranty of any kind on sod, annuals, perennials, potted plants or plants transplanted or supplied by the homeowner. This warranty goes into effect upon receipt of payment in full. All warranties are null and void for non-payment of services. The warranty does not cover acts of God, fire or causality, flooding or drought restrictions.

Please Sign and date below as acknowledgment of warranty:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

