

LANDSCAPE CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Watering:

The number one reason plants don't thrive is improper watering. The soil near the plant's root system should be kept moist, but not allowed to sit in standing pools of water.

A slow trickle of water over a long period of time is highly recommended. This method of watering is preferred over quick, hand waterings.

Using a soaker hose allows water to soak deep, as light waterings only reach the top couple of inches of soil, and the roots will tend to come to the surface. In drought conditions, this can kill the plant.

The best time to water is in the morning because the water can soak into the soil before the sun can evaporate it. Morning waterings also give the sun time to dry the foliage, preventing mildew and fungus growth on the leaves.

Newly planted material may need to be watered daily.

Let the weather be your watering guide. In the early spring and late fall when it's cooler, you may only need to water once a week. Hot, dry, summer days may require watering 3 or more times per week. Rain is usually not enough watering, unless it's a long, steady drizzle. Quick downpours only soak the top inch or two of the soil.

Water until the ground freezes in winter and then during thaw periods in the spring. Plants lose moisture due to dry winter winds, so replacing this water is important to the plant's health.

Trimming:

Most evergreens should be trimmed when the new growth is fully out.

Most flowering plants should be trimmed immediately after the blooms fade or fall off. Trim as much or as little as needed to keep the plants to proper size and in good form.

Periodic light trimming may be needed to keep control of some faster growing shrubs.

Dead, broken, crossed, rubbing, or diseased branches should be trimmed in early spring, and as needed throughout the season.

There are exceptions to these trimming guidelines, so please call 716-662-3860 with any questions.

Fertilizing:

Fertilizers can be used in late fall (end of October through December) when plants are in a dormant state, or early spring, prior to any plant growth.

Inorganic general purpose granular fertilizers, such as 5-10-5 or 10-10-10, are a quick source of readily available nutrients.

Other types of fertilizers, such as Osmocote or most organic fertilizers, can be slow release and may offer a steady supply of nutrients over several months as they dissolve.

Fertilizers should not sit on foliage or against the stems of plants because it can burn the plant.

Apply an even amount of fertilizer around the dripline (the outermost circumference of the canopy) of the plant. Water after fertilizing to wash off any residue that may be left on the leaves.

Organic fertilizers provide less risk of burning due to over-fertilizing. Organic fertilizers also offer the plants nutrients over a longer time period. Murray Bros. sells many organic fertilizers that are plant specific.

Water-soluble fertilizers, such as Miracle-Gro or Miracid, are effective and easy to use. The nutrients in these fertilizers are absorbed through the plant's leaves and roots.

It's best to use two to three different fertilizers periodically throughout the year, rather than using the same one all the time. Different fertilizers contain different micronutrients, giving the plant a variety of nutrients to help it thrive.

Follow package instructions for use of all fertilizers.

Animals:

Deer, rabbits, and mice often find landscape plants to be tasty. Winter is the time when most plants get devoured.

Branches and stems should be protected from chewing. Wrapping evergreens and shrubs with burlap or plastic shrub guards is a good method in preventing against feeding deer.

Products, such as Deer-Away and Liquid Fence, can be sprayed on bushes to protect them for several months. A good practice is to rotate brands of repellents.

Insects:

Insect damage is evident by chewed leaves, curling leaves, or pale and discolored leaves. To choose the proper method of control, it's necessary to identify the specific insect.

Fungus and Disease:

Fungus and disease are often not detrimental to the plant, just ugly to look at. The best method to control fungus and disease is to simply rake up and discard any diseased leaves in the fall. Fungus spores will over-winter on fallen leaves and spread if not thrown away. Fungicides may be necessary at times and professionals can help identify the appropriate one to use.

If problems with insects or disease occur and you're not sure what to do, please call or email Murray Bros (716-662-3860 or murrayslovesplants@gmail.com) and we'll be happy to help. We may ask you to bring in a fresh, affective sample to help identify the problem.