



Maintaining Your New Landscaping

Tips on watering, fertilizing, pruning, etc...

Thank you for choosing Autumn Hill Nursery to install your landscape project. We have worked hard to do the best job we can for you, and hope that you are pleased with the outcome. We offer the following guidelines to help ensure that your new landscape survives and flourishes.

Remember, your new plants are going to need water.

Insufficient moisture is the primary reason plants fail in a new landscape.

Watering your new trees, plants, sod, or grass seed

There are no set rules for watering, but we have provided the following guidelines to get you started.

If in doubt as to water or not, bury your finger about 2 inches into the ground. If the soil is moist, do not water; if it is dry, water. Keep in mind, cold soil may feel moist, so be careful.

Questions on watering? call us at 770-442-3901 (Hickory Flat) or 770-345-5252 (Canton)

Trees

Trees will have root systems that are at least 15 inches in the ground. Overhead irrigation may not be sufficient. We recommend hand watering or using drip irrigation.

Hand water new trees by placing the hose outlet next to the trunk, and let water trickle for about twenty minutes. You want to avoid runoff, and allow the water to soak into the soil. Do this 3 times per week for new trees. After three weeks, taper off to twice a week. This applies to plants installed from March through November. Watering during the winter months will be less frequent.

Drip irrigation should run for approx. 2 hours, 3 times a week for first three weeks, then taper off to twice a week.

Shrubs, perennials and groundcovers

Using **overhead irrigation** run irrigation daily for 20-30 minutes for first 10 days. Then taper off to an odd/even schedule. See our website for your county's guidelines www.autumnhillnursery.com

Drip irrigation should run for 45 minutes daily for first 10 days, then taper off to an odd/even schedule.

Soaker hoses should run for 2-3 hours three times per week, then taper off to an odd/even schedule.

Helpful Hint: Insert a wooden dowel reaching the root depth of your plants. Once watering is completed, pull the dowel from the soil and check. If the dowel has water saturation at the base it confirms water is reaching the root area. If not, watering time should be increased.

Sod

New sod needs to be watered daily while its roots get established. Overhead irrigation should run for 10-15 minutes daily for first 10-14 days. Then taper off to three times per week for next couple of weeks, then reduce watering to twice a week. If you are using an oscillating sprinkler, let it run for about thirty minutes following the same frequency described above. You want to keep the ground moist, but not soggy.

Do not mow for 4 weeks

Grass Seed

New seed needs to be watered 2-3 times daily while it germinates and begins to root. Over head irrigation should just run for about 5-10 minutes for the first week while the seed germinates. After the grass begins to grow, water for about 20-30 minutes once a day. After the grass has been up and green for three weeks, taper off to an odd/even schedule. Do not mow for 5 weeks

Fertilizing Trees, plants, roses, Grass, etc.

Trees, shrubs and perennials should be fertilized in mid-March and again in July

We recommend using a slow-release all-purpose organic fertilizer such as Going Green Organics. This product won't burn plants, and provides a steady feed of nutrients for up to 12 weeks.

[Always follow the instructions on product labels](#)

Roses need to be fertilized in mid-March and again in August. We recommend, Mills Magic Rose Mix. You can supplement this with a monthly dose of liquid Easy Feed from April through September.

Fescue grass should be fertilized in March, September, and November.

Bermuda and zoysia should be fertilized in April (when grass is at least 50% green) and again early September

For Fescue, bermuda and zoysia, we recommend using a slow-release all-purpose organic fertilizer such as Going Green Organics. This product provides a steady feed of nutrients for up to 12 weeks without harming the environment. You may also consider a weed and feed product formulated for your particular grass.

Preventive Maintenance

Black Spot and other fungus on roses can be easily controlled by applying Bayer 3-N-1 Rose Care bi-weekly April through September [Always follow the instructions on product labels](#)

To help **control damage from Japanese Beetles** on thin-leaved plants such as crape myrtle, cherry & plum trees, apply Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Care from May through July. Bayer Advanced Rose Care will help control Japanese Beetles on Roses. [Always follow the instructions on product labels.](#)

Keep leaves off fresh grass in the fall as lack of sunlight can kill the grass

Keep leaves off evergreen groundcovers such as vinca, pachysandra, junipers, etc.

Pruning Shrubs

Most evergreen & non-flowering shrubs can be pruned at any time of the year except Oct. & Nov.

The following shrubs should be pruned within 2-3 weeks after they finish blooming since they immediately start to form the following year's flower buds:

Azalea, camellia, deutzia, forsythia, fothergilla, hydrangea, lilac, mock orange, mountain laurel, pieris, rhododendron, viburnum, weigelia

Pruning Roses

Knockout roses can be cut back to 24" tall in late February to mid-March. They can be lightly sheared throughout the spring and summer to control their shape and size.

Climbing roses should be cut back after first flush of blooms if necessary to control their shape.

Hybrid tea, Grandiflora, and English roses should be cut back to 18-24" tall in late February to mid-March.

Ornamental grasses should be left alone through winter, then cut back to 6" tall in March.

Liriope can be cut back to 1-2" tall during winter or early spring to remove flattened foliage.

Butterfly bush should be cut back to 18" tall in March, then lightly sheared during summer if needed.

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Maintaining Perennials

Most perennials are herbaceous, meaning they die back to the ground each winter. Once they turn brown from frost, the foliage can be cut back to the ground.

Many perennial need to be divided about every 5 years to rejuvenate them. A sign that a clump of perennials may need to be divided is the center of the plant dies out, or bloom count is seriously reduced from previous years. Spring, when the perennials are just breaking ground, is probably the easiest time to dig and divide clumps. Discard the center of the plant, and replant the outer portion. We can give you more specifics on this easy procedure, please stop by and visit us.

Annual Bed (seasonal color beds)

Flowering annuals consume large quantities of nutrients which need to be periodically replaced. Before planting either in the spring or fall, add Mr. Natural's Hen Manure to your bed and turn in with a shovel. Add one bag per 8 sq ft (2'x4' bed) Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer such as Going Green Organics or Osmocote.