

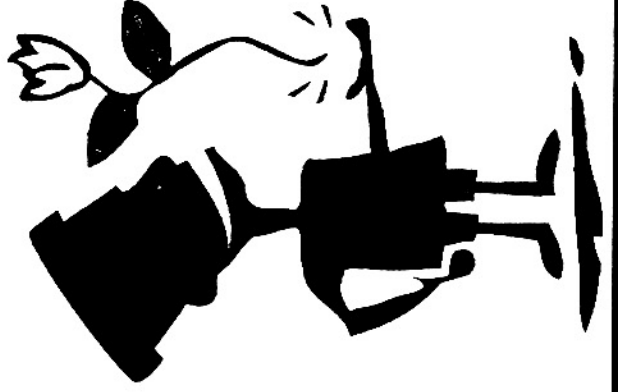


Your new landscaping is an investment that will increase the enjoyment and value of your property. You will appreciate its seasonal beauty and the 10-15% increase in your property's value added by mature landscaping. All investments require some attention in order to grow. These simple guidelines will assist you in maintaining your landscaping with a minimum of time and effort.



630.584.4424  
fax 630.584.4469  
41W781 Route 64  
St. Charles, IL 60175  
[www.wasconursey.com](http://www.wasconursey.com)

# Care of new plantings



## ■ WATERING

The first year or more specifically the first summer after planting, is the most important for your plants' health and survival. This is the time when your plants will require the most attention because of the combined stress of weather and transplant shock. The single most important factor during the first summer is water. Without proper watering your plants cannot grow and thrive.

It is difficult to generalize about the amount or frequency of watering that a plant will need. The following chart summarizes our basic recommendations and lists some additional factors to consider.

TYPE OF PLANT	FREQUENCY*	RECOMMENDED METHODS
Turf, Groundcover Flowers	2-5 Days	#1 Best Way, #2 Also Recommended  #1 Lawn Sprinkler - Must apply 1" of water to be effective. #2 Hose - Moisten soil to depth of 4"-6"
Small Shrubs	3-6 Days	#1 Root Feeder - Don't overwater. 3-5 minutes per bush is enough. #2 Slow Running Hose - Let it run 5-10 minutes per shrub.
Large Shrubs	5-8 Days	
Trees	7-10 Days	#1 Root Feeder - Effective & saves time but don't overwater. 10 minutes total at 3 or 4 places in the ball is sufficient. #2 Slow Running Hose - 30 minutes is enough. Make sure it doesn't just run off. TREGGATOR - fill as directed.

\*Additional factors influencing the frequency of watering.

SIZE: Larger plants with larger root balls require less frequent watering because they take longer to dry out.

EXPOSURE: Hot, windy areas require more frequent watering than shady or sheltered areas.

WEATHER: Related to exposure. Be aware that rainfall from brief thunderstorms runs off and is of little value to trees and shrubs.

SOIL/DRAINAGE: Clay soils (common in new subdivisions) drain slowly requiring much less water than loamy or sandy soil. Do not overwater.

MULCH/PLASTIC WEEDBARRIERS: Soil coverings reduce evaporation and moisture loss and also cool the soil requiring less frequent watering.

Common sense plays the most important role in watering. All of the above factors should be considered and applied to your situation.

Continue your watering into September tapering off as the plants go dormant and the temperatures become cooler. One final watering in late November will be beneficial for all evergreens especially the broadleaf types such as Rhododendron or Boxwood.

After the first year most of your plants should be able to get along on normal rainfall except during very hot or dry periods. Larger trees will require more than one growing season to recover from transplanting. They should be watered following the first year schedule for at least another year.

## ■ FERTILIZING

The first spring after planting is a good time to apply a fertilizer. It isn't absolutely necessary, but a light application of a balanced granular fertilizer (i.e., 14-14-14) in March or April will help get your plants off to a better start. You can apply this particular fertilizer within the beds (not on the lawn) at up to 3 pounds per 100 square feet. In a small area use up to 1 cup to cover 15 square feet. You can spread the granules by hand, but try to distribute it evenly throughout the bed. Don't apply granular fertilizer when the foliage is wet - it will stick to the leaves and burn them. It's best to water well after fertilizing to make sure the fertilizer gets washed down to the soil level. Subsequent waterings and rain will dissolve the granules and carry the fertilizer down to the roots. A soil acidifier such as aluminum sulfate or ferrous sulfate will help to acidify our typically alkaline clay and benefit such plants as evergreens and hydrangeas.

If you want to fertilize older, established trees with roots in the lawn, apply this fertilizer at half the rate so as not to overstimulate your grass. Water it in immediately. If you feed your lawn on a regular basis do not add extra fertilizers for these trees.

When applying fertilizer, it's important not to overdo it. Excessive amounts will burn tender roots, so use it at the recommended rates.

As an alternative, fall fertilizing will also give good results, but wait until your plants go dormant in October before application. Once a year is sufficient at these rates.

## ■ PRUNING

New plantings generally do not require pruning

in their first year. There may be a broken branch or two from handling and planting to remove. You should also remove any dead twigs or dieback that occurs after planting. Prune back to just above live healthy buds or leaves. Do not leave stubs. This type of pruning can be done at any time.

## ■ DISEASE & INSECT CONTROL

This is rarely a problem in the first year. Most signs of distress are related to transplant shock or improper watering and not pests. Try to be aware of anything unnatural looking (holes in the leaves, growths on branches, discolored foliage, needles dropping, etc.). If you do find a problem, call or bring a sample to the nursery and we will advise you as to the best control.

## ■ WINTER PROTECTION

We recommend that you wrap the trunks of all newly planted trees in the fall. Young trees are subject to frost cracks and sunscald caused by rapid temperature fluctuations in winter. An asphalt-based crepe paper tree wrap should be used. Start at the base of the tree and spiral up the trunk with each turn slightly overlapping the last. Wrap all the way up to the lowest branches and secure it with twine or tape. Smooth or thin barked trees less than 5" trunk diameter should be wrapped in November and unwrapped in April for 3 years after planting.

Another concern in winter is feeding damage from hungry animals. Mice will gnaw at the base of young trees and deer will browse on some evergreens, but rabbits are the biggest problem. When snow covers their usual food supply they will feed on the bark and branch tips of many of your trees and shrubs. If they chew all the way around the trunk of a tree it will die. The tree wraps will deter them as will the spiral plastic guards. For shrubs or low branched trees that are impractical to wrap we recommend the use of repellent sprays containing Thiram. These sprays should be applied in late fall. The shrubby types of flowering plums and cherries and winged euonymous are particularly attractive to rabbits as are crabapples and fruit trees. Evergreens in general rarely suffer any rabbit damage.