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Care and Establishment of Newly Planted Trees, Shrubs, and Perennials

Trees and Shrubs

Watering: Newly planted trees and shrubs will require you to water them periodically for another 2-3 years. In general, most trees will need to be watered weekly the first years, every two weeks the second year, and every three weeks the third year. As with at planting, place a hose at the base of the plant and turn the water on at a trickle. Each tree should be watered in this manner for approximately 1-2 hours. (It is essential to water slowly enough to allow the water to penetrate the soil without running off).

Fertilizing: You should fertilize your tree with granular fertilizers such as 10-10-10 at a rate of 1 cup per 2 caliper inches of trunk (diameter of trunk one foot above the ground). Ensure that the fertilizer has at least 50% slow release Nitrogen. Spread fertilizer around tree at the drip line or at the outer edge of the root ball. Fertilize in early April - June.

You can also use a liquid fertilizer such as Miracle-Gro and Mir-Acid for evergreens. Follow the instructions to coincide with your watering.

Mulching: Wood and other organic mulches will decompose over time and it is essential to replenish the mulch every 1-3 years. Mulch provides insulation for the roots, aides in holding moisture, helps prevent weed germination, and provides nutrition as it decomposes.

Insect and Disease Control: It is recommended that you monitor your plants for insect and disease pressures. A few insects or a little powdery mildew will not decimate your tree, however high numbers of a certain pest can severely stress and harm your tree. Once you have determined or had a professional determine if the pest is detrimental, you can have it treated professionally. Or you may pick up the right product for the right pest from our Garden Center.

Pruning: Your Breezy Hill Nursery tree is a nursery cultivated tree and should already have a desired shape at installation. However, you will always need to be on the lookout for crossing branches that rub on each other. It is also a good idea to thin out the tree every 3-5 years. This invigorates new growth and fullness. Be sure not to cut out the "leader" of the tree. Prune shade trees in late March or early April. Prune evergreens in late June through July. Remembering the three "D's" – dead, dying or diseased; these are the branches to look for and prune out **anytime**.

Perennials

Watering: Check your garden weekly for water. If we are not receiving 1" of rain naturally a week you will need to supply it. Do this by setting up soaker hoses or sprinklers around your perennials and allow the water to run for 1 ½ - 2 hours twice each week.

Mulching: Wood and other organic mulches will decompose over time and it is essential to replenish the mulch every 1-3 years. Mulch provides insulation for the roots, aides in holding moisture, helps prevent weed germination, and provides nutrition as it decomposes.

Deadheading: Deadheading is the practice of removing spent or finished flower heads. This should be done after the flower-head has gone past its prime and no longer is beautiful. Depending on the variety of flower you may remove the entire stalk or just the individual head. By removing the spent flowers the plant does not go into a reproductive cycle. This does not allow seed production so that it can put its energy into producing more flowers.

Staking: Staking is suggested for plant material with tall flower stalks and other structures. This can be achieved by using branches, bamboo sticks, dowels, or any other structure that can hold the plant up. Some varieties that may require this are Shasta Daisy, Peonies, Delphiniums, etc.

Fertilizing: Fertilizing is a good thing to do because it can and will improve plant vigor. This will in turn give you more flowers to enjoy and for a longer period of time. You can fertilize with a product like "Miracle-Gro" which is an instant fertilizer. This will fertilize for only a short period of time. The other option would be to use a slow release fertilizer. This will fertilize with each watering and it is applied in early spring. Some that you could use are, *Osmocote* or a general use fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or 13-13-13. The slow release fertilizers will save you time because they are usually only applied twice a year opposed to an instant fertilizer which only lasts about 7-10 days. Do check the package for accurate application rates.