

GENERAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

WATERING

For all newly established planting in the landscape, watering should be applied once a day for the first five (5) days. Watering should be applied each day by either hand watering or using a sprinkler. If you use a sprinkler, then apply water to each area for about an hour. Hand watering requires more of your time, but it also covers an area more thoroughly and in the long run can use less time to water your landscape.

Under normal circumstances, watering of all plant materials and turf should be done 45 minutes to 1 hour, three (3) times a week on days with temperatures of 85° or higher; otherwise, two (2) times a week for an hour.

Annuals and perennials may require more watering than normal. Due to shallow root systems, they should be watered every other day during the growing season.

During a drought period in the winter, with temperatures of 40° and below, water should be done at least once a week for an hour.

FERTILIZING

ORNAMENTALS, TREES AND SHRUBS

Fertilizing under this category should be applied three (3) times annually. First application in mid-March to April consisting of a well balanced fertilizer such as 13-13-13. Second application in mid-summer using a higher nitrate base such as 14-7-7. Third application, September to mid-October, using only Phosphorus and Potash. I like to use 0-20-20 for deep root growth.

AZALEAS, GARDENIAS AND RHODODENDRONS

Only fertilize these shrubs after they drop all of their blooms. First application should be applied late spring to early summer consisting of an Acid-Base fertilizer like Mir/acid, (a product of Miracle-Grow) .This water soluble fertilizer is fast and easy to use. Second application in late August using same fertilizer.

ANNUALS/PERENNIALS

Fertilizing these plants should be done at least twice a month. As a general fertilizer, Miracle Grow should be applied to promote growth and blooms throughout the growing season.

PRUNING AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Most shrubbery does not require a lot of pruning. Pruning should be done to maintain its size and shape. Any additional pruning should be done only to remove any dead wood. Weeding is essential to proper and general appearance of the garden. During warm conditions, gardens should be weeded on a weekly basis. Mulching should be applied twice annually to the garden at a depth of 2-3", once in early spring after a general cleanup is given, and the second in fall to protect the root systems on all shrubbery. Processed oak bark mulch is highly recommended.

INSECT AND FUNGUS CONTROL

All ornamental trees and shrubs should be sprayed with a dormant oilicide in early spring to control insects in their larva stage. This is the most important application to control insects throughout the growing season. A follow-up with three (3) applications 4-6 weeks apart will be a good control and preventive for your landscape.

A general fungicide should be applied at least three (3) times annually. The first application should be applied during the month of April after all new foliage has emerged. Two (2) follow-up applications should be applied in June and September to prevent further fungus.

NOTE:

Good Dormant Oilicide – “ORTHO” – VOLCK

Insecticide – MALATHION – ISOTOX

Fungicide – FUNGINEX - DACONIL