



CARING FOR & MAINTAINING *your new landscape garden*

We hope you enjoy your new landscape garden. To care for and protect your new plantings, be sure to give your plants the water they need as they work to establish themselves in their new environment. Please refer to our website's home page under the Client Resources section for useful watering tips.

As time goes on and your new plantings mature, you will want to continue to nurture and maintain your garden and keep it looking its best. Here is a list of basic maintenance tips:

SOIL AMENDMENTS – Over time, it is beneficial to add nutrients and/or organic matter (like compost mixes) to your plant beds. There are also a number of synthetic and natural/organic plant-feeding products available today. If using a synthetic product, be sure to find one that is slow-release and all-purpose. For best results, always apply under any existing mulch layer. Always water the plantings after applying fertilization. As with any product – *make certain to read and follow the instructions prior to application.*

MULCHING – Aside from offering a lovely aesthetic to your garden, keeping a mulch layer installed on your planting beds offers a myriad of benefits to your plants. From inhibiting weed growth to maintaining a moist environment between waterings (or rainfall) to providing winter protection to root systems, mulching is a great way to protect your landscape investment. Depending on the type of winter season and the depth of mulch installed, your planting beds will need mulch replenishments every 1 to 3 years.

WEEDING – It may not be a four-letter word, but most people don't like it! Weeding is essential to keeping your planting beds looking clean and beautiful; but it is equally important to weed your beds from competing with surrounding weeds for space and water. Best tip for weeding – remove them while they're small. A little time spent weeding every so often will keep you from having to tackle a very difficult task when weeds are established and have strong root systems.

CUT-BACKS – Many, but not all, herbaceous perennials (those that completely die-back over the winter months—like hosta and non-woody flowering plants or ornamental grasses), should be cut back at the very end of fall or early spring before new growth begins. This practice will help keep your perennials and grasses looking spiffy and you won't have unsightly dead foliage to look at during the growing season.

PRUNING & TRIMMING – Shrubs and ornamental trees do benefit from maintenance trimming and shaping. If shrubs, particularly those with medium and fast growth rates, are allowed to grow without restraint, certain species can begin to look overgrown and unattractive. Once a shrub or ornamental tree is established, seasonal pruning and annual or periodic (every 2 years) trimming is essential and will help the plant to thrive—and keep its size maintained.