

## LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

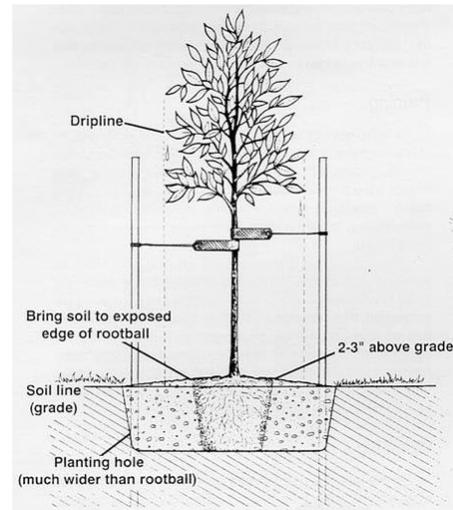
Whether you have recently landscaped your new home or are renovating your current landscaping, there are proper maintenance guidelines to follow.

If you have not only acquired new plantings but also had your lawn seeded or sodded, the timing for watering can be tricky. Seed and sod need to be kept consistently moist for the first 4 weeks whereas trees and shrubs may only need on the average of 1 inch of water per week. This is when the automatic irrigation systems pose a threat to your plants. Hand watering can even be difficult to accomplish. Overwatering can kill your new plants and under watering can kill your grass.

A couple precautions can be taken to help prevent the demise of one or the other. The only drawback is that it lengthens the time for the project. If possible, establish the lawn for 3-4 weeks before doing the landscape plantings. Then you can water more efficiently with no worries. Another suggestion is to over dig the planting holes and create wells so that the water can escape and not keep the root ball saturated. This is a good practice especially if you are planting in heavy clay soil.

Mulching is another item to consider when installing your new landscape plantings. Applying mulch around new plants is not only aesthetically pleasing but will also help hold moisture, reduce grass and weed competition, and prevent damage done by mowers and trimmers. Mulch is best when applied to a thickness of 3-4 inches. There are many different textures and colors to choose from. Stop by our garden center to see a wide selection.

Newly planted trees require slightly more attention when doing maintenance. Certain trees may need to be staked if placed in a windy area or if they have a larger canopy. It is recommended to place 2 sturdy stakes vertically in the undisturbed soil on the NW and SE sides. Always use some sort of guard between the wire and the trunk (a section of rubber hose works well). Do not tighten the wires too tight, the tree needs to be somewhat mobile with a gentle breeze. After 1 full growing season, the staking system can be removed. Trees will also benefit from a trunk wrap to prevent injury from the winter sun. You can purchase different types of wrap at our garden center. Apply the wrap from the bottom of the trunk to the top overlapping as you work up. Wrap up to the first set of branches. Only use tree wrap from early November to early April.



Pleasant Valley Garden Center carries a full selection of mulches, soil conditioners, fertilizers, staking kits and watering supplies for all of your landscaping & maintenance projects.

We have the experience, know-how and resources to help you thru most gardening and yard improvement projects...making your own outdoor living space a reality!

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