

## Sod and Seed

Caring for your newly installed seed or sod is a time consuming but necessary job.

### Newly installed sod

- ◆ Requires 1 inch of water per day for the first 2 weeks
- ◆ Then reduce to 1 inch per week for the remainder of the season
- ◆ Water deeply and thoroughly to encourage healthy roots
- ◆ Never let sod completely dry out

### Newly planted seed

- ◆ Must always stay moist (not drowned)
- ◆ Be careful not to wash out the seed
- ◆ Once rooted it requires 1 inch of water per week
- ◆ Retain from using any chemicals until the following spring or fall

### Mowing

- ◆ Wait until grass is 2-3 inches tall or 2 weeks old
- ◆ Wait until soil is dry and firm
- ◆ Leave at least 2 inches of grass height
- ◆ Irrigate within 24 hours

Please contact RLS Landscape and Nursery Co. with any further questions about your new landscape.

The landscape care and maintenance guide is not a complete source for plant care and maintenance. Each landscape contains variables that will change the requirements for your landscape. RLS does not claim any responsibility for the care and maintenance of any plant after installation is complete. Please refer to the RLS policy and guarantee for all terms and limitations. Again if you have further questions please contact us at the number listed below, or log on to our web site.



**RLS Landscape and Nursery Co.**

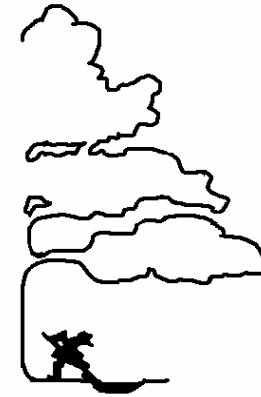
PO Box 925  
Elburn, IL 60119

Phone: 630.365.4769  
Fax: 630.365.4771

[www.rlslandscapenursery.com](http://www.rlslandscapenursery.com)

# RLS

Landscape and Nursery Co.



## Care and Maintenance Guide

- ◆ Watering
- ◆ Fertilizing
- ◆ Trimming
- ◆ Care of seed and sod

**PHONE 630.365.4769**

## Watering

Proper watering is the most important ingredient for a healthy landscape. It can also be the most confusing. A new landscape requires constant monitoring and care.

Due to the many changing factors in a landscape it is impossible to predict the amount of water that your landscape will require. The following will help you to water more effectively.

- ◆ Water in the morning and early afternoon if possible.
- ◆ Check each plant before watering, if the soil is wet 6" to 12" deep hold off watering
- ◆ Water at the base of the plant towards the drip-line.
- ◆ Water thoroughly, deeply and slowly
- ◆ Be careful not to water too frequently
- ◆ Allow the plant time for drainage between waterings.
- ◆ Keep a close watch on hot , dry, and windy days.
- ◆ Continue to water evergreens until the ground is frozen

## Fertilizing

All plants will benefit from occasional fertilization. Stunted growth, poor flowering, poor fruiting, and overall declining health can all be symptoms of lack of nutrients. All potential nutrient deficiencies should be examined by a professional before a fertilizer program is instituted. The following are fertilization tips to get you started.

- ◆ Fertilize in spring when the nutrients are most needed.
- ◆ Choose a water soluble, granular, or slow release fertilizer that best suits your needs.
- ◆ A basic 20-20-20 with micro-nutrients is a general fertilizer for most needs.
- ◆ Follow all of the directions on the label of the package.
- ◆ Take all precautions indicated on the package.
- ◆ Fertilize at the drip-line for the most effectiveness.
- ◆ Never allow fertilizer to come in contact with the plant, this will result in a burn.
- ◆ Do not fertilize during an extended drought, or high heat conditions.
- ◆ Remember more is not always better!

## Trimming

Trimming and pruning of your new plants is necessary for plant health and beauty. Understanding how, when, and why you should prune will help you respect the practice and see its importance.

### Reasons for pruning and trimming:

- ◆ Remove broken, damaged, diseased, or undesirable branches.
- ◆ Improve branching structure.
- ◆ Thin out branching to invigorate new growth.
- ◆ Promote fruiting and flowering.
- ◆ Rejuvenate older plants.

### Tips for pruning and trimming:

- ◆ For flowering shrubs: prune right after the shrub stops flowering, so the next years flower buds are not removed.
- ◆ Use properly sharpened and clean tools.
- ◆ Tools should be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol between cuts on diseased plants.
- ◆ Make straight and clean cuts.
- ◆ Do not prune in late summer.