



# *Caring for Your New Landscape*

## **A Guide to Protecting Your Growing Investment**

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Your landscape represents an important and constantly growing enhancement to the value of your property. Proper maintenance is essential to keeping your lawn and plants strong and healthy. This convenient guide will help you ensure a good start for your new landscape and protect your growing investment.



# Sod

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## WATERING

Irrigation of the lawn should be performed in the early hours of the morning just before daylight. This practice will avoid any rapid evaporation of water before it reaches the lawn; yet allow the leaf tissue to dry quickly after the sun rises. Avoid watering in the late afternoon or at night.



Week 1 - Irrigate each day for at least 20 minutes. Check to ensure that the lawn is getting sufficient water by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places and making sure the soil below is moist.

Week 2 - Irrigate every other day for approximately 30 minutes. Check to ensure there is sufficient water. The roots should start to take hold.

Week 3 - Irrigate twice per week making sure to apply about 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. Deep, infrequent irrigating will encourage deep root growth. The sod should be okay for normal wear and tear. Fertilizing is suggested after 6 weeks depending on season and grass type.

*\* Important: Seasonal changes may alter the amount of water needed for your new lawn and plants. We highly recommend that you pay attention to your landscape and call us ASAP if you have any issues.*

## MOWING

Try and keep off of your new lawn as much as possible during the initial establishment period. Allow the roots to get established (usually about 3 weeks) before mowing so that the sod does not get pulled or damaged. You can check for good rooting by tugging on a handful of sod (it should not pull up if rooted properly).

Never cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade height to ensure healthy growth and reduce weeds. The best height is between 2 and 3 inches.

# Plants

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## WATERING

We planted your new shrubs carefully at the proper depth and added soil amendments to encourage root growth. Now that the plants are in ground it is imperative that they get sufficient amounts of water. Many plants die from too little or too much water during the first few months after planting. Those in well-drained soil likely

get too little water, while those in poorly drained soil get too much.

The best way to see if your plants are getting enough water is to observe them. If the leaves are drooping or browning then they are most likely not being watered enough.

Unfortunately, plants show the same signs whether they are watered too much or too little. To maintain rapid growth, shrubs and trees transplanted into well-drained soil require daily irrigation for at least the first month. It may be necessary to add supplemental water during times of drought if you have an irrigation system.

*\* Important: Seasonal changes may alter the amount of water needed for your new lawn and plants. We highly recommend that you observe your landscape as much as possible and call us if you have any issues.*

## PRUNING

Pruning is just as important to the health of plants as proper planting, watering, and fertilizing. Spring-flowering shrubs, such as Azalea, Roses, and Viburnum, should be pruned immediately after blooming. Shrubs that bloom in summer and fall, and shrubs grown primarily for their foliage, can be pruned in early spring before growth starts. Examples include Hydrangea, Holly, and Crape Myrtle. Keep in mind that most plants can be pruned year-round to maintain a neat appearance or proper size.

**Coastal Landscape Design** can offer you the services of our trained maintenance staff to care for your landscape on an annual, seasonal, or monthly basis. Feel free to contact us if you are interested in having a landscape management program tailored exclusively to your property.

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### • SERVICES •

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- HARDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD
- LANDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD
- LIGHTING
- TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL
- CONCRETE INSTALL AND REPAIR
- IRRIGATION DESIGN, INSTALL, AND REPAIR
- LAWN MAINTENANCE
- FERTILIZATION



## Helpful Hint

Mulch should be applied to plant beds at 2 to 3 inches thick. Careful not to pile mulch on the root ball as it could cause harm to the plant.

### WHY MULCH?

Reduces water use by up to 75% as it protects the soil from evaporation

Provides valuable nutrients as the mulch breaks down

Encourages worms, which aerate the soil and provide fertilizer

Helps build the soil into a soft friable mixture, which encourages good plant growth and makes it easier to weed

Reduces the amount of weeds

## Palm Trees

### WATERING

Your Palm tree will need very little water or maintenance once the root system is established. However, for the first month you should follow these guidelines to ensure a healthy, happy Palm tree.

- Water 5 gallons per day for the first 30 days
- Clay – water at base of Palm at a slow rate to allow water to slowly saturate the soil and reach the root system deep below
- Dirt – fill the mote (bowl) around the base of Palm with 5 gallons of water or until mote is full

Winter (65° or less) – no need to water  
Spring (75° or less) – 1x per week  
Summer (90° or less) – 2 or 3x per week  
Summer (90° or more) – 4 or 5x per week

*\* It may take up to a year for some Palms to start growing. Remove old stalks and seed pods as needed.*

### FERTILIZING

First fertilization should be done one month after installation. (Note: Do NOT fertilize in winter)

With **clay**, fertilize Palm 3 times per year to ensure proper growth and health.

With **dirt**, Palm should be fertilized on week after last freeze (Spring) and again 6 months later (Fall).

Make sure the fertilizer is a palm food since regular tree or grass fertilizer may cause growth problems. Spread the fertilizer at base of Palm where the water is applied.

## SIT BACK AND ENJOY

WITH A PERMANENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING UP EARLY AND SPENDING TIME WATERING YOUR LAWN OR PLANTS. A MULTI-ZONE SPRINKLER SYSTEM WILL ALLOW YOU TO ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF WATER NEEDED FOR INDIVIDUAL AREAS OF YOUR LANDSCAPE. IN ADDITION, A PROPERLY DESIGNED SYSTEM CAN SAVE YOU WATER AND MONEY. CALL **COASTAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN** TO GIVE YOU A FREE QUOTE ON INSTALLING AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM SO YOU CAN SIT BACK AND ENJOY! ALREADY HAVE AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM? WE CAN PROVIDE MONTHLY ASSESSMENTS THAT INCLUDE CHECKING FOR LEAKS, ADJUSTING FOR SEASONAL CHANGES, AND WINTERIZING YOUR SYSTEM.

