



MAINTAINING YOUR LANDSCAPE

If you have specific questions or need additional assistance, call our office at 610-796-7818.

Congratulations on your new landscape installation!

To ensure you get the most out of your investment and enjoy your beautiful surroundings for years to come, it's essential to properly care for your plants. This guide offers general maintenance tips for most landscapes.



WATERING GUIDELINES

GRASS SEED AND SOD

- For the first 4 weeks: Water once a day, preferably in the early morning or late afternoon. Keep the lawn free of leaves, people, pets, and toys for 2-3 weeks.
- After 4 weeks: Water every 3 to 4 days until the grass thickens.
- You can begin mowing once the grass reaches a height of 3 to 3 ½ inches. Set your mower to a cutting height of 3 inches or more, and never remove more than one-third of the grass height.
- Avoid using crabgrass pre-emergent or weed control products until the grass has been mowed at least three times.
- For established lawns after fall aeration and overseeding, water 2-3 times per week. If there's a hot, dry spell, daily watering may be needed.

TREES, SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS

- In the first year:
 - **Trees:** Water 5-10 gallons 2-3 times per week (or check gator bags for water).
 - **Shrubs:** Water 3 gallons 2-3 times per week.
 - **Perennials:** Water 4-5 times per week, increasing during extreme heat.
- Water deeply and less frequently. Check soil moisture before watering again by inserting your finger a couple of inches into the soil. If the soil is still wet, wait to water.
- Once plants are established, weekly watering is usually enough. Keep an eye on evergreens year-round, as winter winds can cause them to dry out, especially without snow or rain.





PRUNING TIPS

Pruning helps maintain plant size, promote flower and fruit growth, and allow light and air into the plant. While shearing with hedge trimmers is common, hand pruning offers better results. Hand pruners allow for deeper cuts into the plant, enabling better light and air circulation and resulting in a healthier, more natural appearance.

- **Spring-Flowering Shrubs:** Prune immediately after they bloom and no later than July 4th to avoid damaging next year's flower buds.
- **Summer-Flowering & Non-Flowering Shrubs:** Prune before new growth begins in early spring to promote compact growth. Butterfly Bush and Blue Mist Spirea benefit from being cut back to 12-18 inches every spring.
- **Evergreen Shrubs & Trees:** Prune in late spring or early summer when new growth appears. Avoid heavy pruning in the fall, as new growth may not harden off before winter.
- **Shade & Ornamental Trees:** Avoid pruning for the first two years after planting. Prune spring-flowering trees after they bloom, and prune shade trees like oaks during dormancy. Avoid pruning maples and birches during their growing season to prevent excessive sap bleeding.



FERTILIZING AND MULCHING

Apply a slow-release fertilizer in the spring. Acid-loving plants like azaleas, holly, and rhododendrons benefit from specialized fertilizers like Hollytone. If you are part of our Plant Health Care Program, we will fertilize your plants during our visits.

Maintain a minimum of 3 inches of mulch around your plants to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and enhance the landscape's appearance. Avoid mounding mulch around the plant's crown—start mulching at the root flare.



PERENNIAL CARE

Perennials die back in winter and reemerge in the spring. Basic care includes:

- **Deadheading:** Remove faded flowers to encourage new blooms. Some perennials, like daylilies and coral bells, may require the removal of entire stalks. Cutting flowers for bouquets also counts as deadheading!
- **Fall Cutback:** After the frost, cut perennials back to 2-3 inches, except for lavender and Russian sage, which should be trimmed in spring. Leave ornamental grasses through the winter to add visual interest.
- **Dividing:** Divide perennials every 3-5 years in early spring to promote growth and manage their spread.



INSECTS AND DISEASES

If your plants appear stressed or you suspect pest issues, contact us or consult a local Cooperative Extension Agent for advice. Proper diagnosis is key to applying the correct treatment and avoiding unnecessary or harmful interventions. Our Plant Health Care program can help keep your plants healthy and resilient.

Let us tailor a maintenance program to suit your landscape and lifestyle!

Sincerely, The New Castle Lawn & Landscape Team

