SHADES OF GREEN INC.

TREE GUARANTEE AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

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TREE CARE

A tree is a living thing so when harvested and then re-planted, it undergoes a very stressful period commonly called planting shock, which is true for just about every plant that has been re-planted. When trees and plants are stressed, they show it through the wilting, browning, or dropping of leaves. The best answer here is to **contact us** so that we can give you some guidance or you can contact your local county extension service at a nominal cost. If at anytime you think there might be a problem with your landscape, please call a professional before it is too late.

NOTE: 90% of trees we replace are due to over watering. Always check the soil moisture adjacent to the tree prior to watering. We do not replace trees or shrub due to over watering or under watering simply because we are not responsible for watering the landscape after the initial planting is complete. It is always better to err on the side of under watering. An under watered tree or shrub will cast off its leaves in order to conserve moisture, and then re-leaf when watered. Over watering damages the roots system first, and then the leaves die and remain on the plant or tree. Once these symptoms appear, the root system is generally damaged beyond recovery and the tree dies.

Tree Maintenance

Once a tree is planted, it is imperative that any airflow on top of the root ball is not restricted. The root ball is defined as the amount of earth surrounding the root system of a particular tree as originally contained, with the wire and burlap or container, upon shipment. A 1” layer of mulch on top of the burlap covering the root ball is sufficient to hold moisture and hide the unsightly burlap and wire that covers the tree root ball.

Any more than 1” can potentially be harmful to a tree, especially in the first two years after planting. When oxygen flow to the root system is restricted, trees die or, if they do survive, they may develop poorly and never reach their full potential. SOIL, DIRT, SOD, PLANTS, COMPOST, MULCH, ETC. CAN BE HARMFUL TO THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A ROOT SYSTEM IN THE NEW PLANTING ENVIROMENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A ROOT SYSTEM REQUIRES THAT THE ROOT BALL REMAIN TOTALLY UNDISTURBED FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS AFTER PLANTING. TILLAGE, TRENCHING, SPRINKLER INSTALLATION, GRADE CHANGES, CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC, FERTILIZER OR CHEMICAL INJECTIONS, ETC., CAN RESULT IN IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO A NEWLY PLANTED TREE. **BE SURE NOT TO APPLY WEED AND FEED FERTILIZERS OR HERBICIDES NEAR OR ON ROOT BALL**.

Insect damage can be more commonly seen on newly planted trees and other plants, since they are under more stress in their first two growing seasons. It is good assurance to watch closely for insects during this period and treat as needed when signs are noticeable. During the first season fertilizer injections are not recommended. A low nitrogen, high phosphorus, slow release granular fertilizer is adequate during the first growing season. If used sparingly. We recommend **Garden-Ville 7-2-2** or **Colorscapes**. Use a vitamin supplement called **‘Superthrive™’** if a tree or plant shows signs of stress.

We recommend that you check your trees, shrubs and other plant materials daily or at least weekly for proper moisture, signs of insects, disease, or poor growth and to adjust loose guy wires. Please notify us of any abnormalities. Failure to notify us of problems within 2 weeks of noticing problem may result in voiding your guarantee due to neglect. Our experience has been that trees or plants that have been neglected perform poorly and struggle.

Water Maintenance

Summertime heat is hard on all living things. Water requirements rise as the heat increases. Proper water maintenance can only occur if an owner works with the environment, not against it. If soil is well drained, then trees and plants may be watered with lower frequency for longer periods. If soil is poorly drained the trees and shrubs need to be watered for a shorter period to allow water to soak in soil. To water correctly, one must develop an understanding of the soil type in which the planting has taken place. The cities of Frisco, Plano, Allen, Wylie, Richardson, McKinney, Prosper, Celina, Carrollton, The Colony, and North Dallas generally have poorly drained soil. Adding water after the soil is already saturated will kill a plant as quickly as lack of water.

We recommend using a moisture meter if you are unsure of the appropriate soil moisture level. Check the soil moisture of the rootball about 10”-18” out from the trunk of the tree, depending on the size of the rootball. When using a Rapitest® moisture meter, stick the probe into the ground about 6”-8” deep and note the meter reading. Water the tree if the meter reads ‘1’ or barely ‘2’. Check in two or three different locations around the rootball, and then take the average reading. The moisture meter will mainly help prevent you from watering an already moist or wet tree.

❖ Watering Using A Treegator® Bag:

- Wrap both sides of the bag around the trunk.
- Zip up the zipper.
- Insert hose in opening under product tag.
- When bag is about ¼ of the way full, pull up on the black straps to smooth out the wrinkles at the bottom of the bag and allow better dripping.
- Fill bag **fully!** (You may add Superthrive™ at 3-4 capfuls per bagful.)
- Bag may take 4-6 hours to drip empty.
  (Normally, a little water will remain in the bottom of the bag.)
- It is best to remove bag after each watering so the tree trunk can breathe and get sunlight. **Warning** – bags left on over extended periods of time (3-4 weeks) can cause problems with insects and fungi on the trunk and bark.
- Frequency of watering using Treegator® Bag:
  - Once per week if temperatures are under 90 degrees Fahrenheit and rootball is dry when checked.
  - Twice per week if temperatures are over 90 degrees Fahrenheit and the rootball is dry when checked.

❖ Watering Using A Garden Hose:

➢ Well Drained Soil Watering Guidelines

Temperature below 90 degrees Fahrenheit

Hose water 2-5" cal trees at a trickle for 20 minutes once weekly

Hose water trees over 5" cal at a trickle for 40 minutes once weekly

Temperature above 90 degrees Fahrenheit

Hose water 2-5"cal trees at a trickle for 20 minutes twice weekly

Hose water trees over 5" cal at a trickle for 40 minutes twice weekly

➢ Poorly Drained Soil Watering Guidelines

Temperature below 90 degrees Fahrenheit

Hose water 2-5" cal trees at a trickle for 10 minutes once weekly

Hose water trees over 5" cal at a trickle for 20 minutes once weekly

Temperature above 90 degrees Fahrenheit

Hose water 2-5" cal trees at a trickle for 10 minutes twice weekly

Hose water trees over 5" cal at a trickle for 20 minutes twice weekly

****Note:** A "trickle" is defined as the precise point when droplets cease and a continuous stream of water flows out of a hose to the ground when holding the hose end level one foot above ground. Always check soil moisture before watering trees and shrub areas. Varieties that **do not tolerate excess water** are Red Oak, Chinese Pistachio, Austrian Pine, Sweet Gum, Burr Oak and Redbud.

TERMS OF SHADES OF GREEN GUARANTEE

All trees 10-gallon and larger will be guaranteed for 1 year from planting date. The guarantee does not apply to annual flowers, tropical plants, shrubs, or some perennials. The guarantee will not apply when a tree dies due to over watering, theft, damage by others, or acts of God such as fire, freezes, storms, drought, insects, disease and hail.

Tree Replacements Planted by Shades of Green

Any tree 10-gallon and larger acquired under this contract that is dead shall be removed and replaced with the same size and type as soon as season permits. The first replacement will be done at no cost to the owner. The second replacement will cost the owner half the original price paid for the tree. Tree replacements are not performed during the summer heat (June through September).

HERE ARE GENERAL GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW

1) Always check soil moisture of tree rootball or bed area 4-5” below surface before watering.
2) The root ball may be dry while soil adjacent is wet. In this case, water the root ball because that is where the majority of the roots are.
3) These guidelines are in conjunction with normal watering being done in the planting area. If the tree is planted in an un-irrigated area, watering will need to be adjusted during dry periods. Dry soil adjacent to the root ball will wick water away from tree or plants.
4) Apply water where trunk meets the soil to ensure watering the root ball.
5) Container trees and plants will require more frequent watering since they have more roots to uptake water. So check your containers more often.
6) Windy periods (winds over 20 mph) can cause trees and plants to dry out quicker, so check trees and plants for signs of stress.

SHRUB CARE

Maintaining Shrubs

No pruning is required at time of planting, and yearly pruning should be kept to a minimum, leaving the plants as soft and natural as possible. A combination of light shearing and careful pick pruning is usually the most practical. Pick pruning means the careful removal of individual limbs versus shearing of the entire plant. Severe shearing or boxing should be avoided except in extremely formal gardens. Flowering shrubs, especially spring bloomers, need to be pruned immediately after flowering, not later in the season and not in the winter, so the buds for the next year's flower displays aren't removed.

Mulching

Shrubs are mulched at the time of planting. The mulch does an excellent job of preventing compaction, holding moisture in the soil, preventing weeds, and keeping the ground cool, thus aiding in the establishment of the root system. Mulch also encourages microorganisms to work nearer the surface of the soil. Mulch around shrubs should be replaced anytime it wears thin. Bare soil should never be left exposed to sunlight.

Fertilizing

Fertilize shrubs in the early spring, again in early to mid-summer, and a third time in the fall if the soil still needs improvement. We recommend fertilizing the ground service and bed areas with an organic based fertilizer (such as Garden-Ville 7-2-2) at the rate of 20 lbs per 1000 sqft. Try and avoid concentrations of fertilizer on the main stem of the plant to avoid burning. A thorough watering should follow any application of fertilizer.

Watering

Water is needed to maintain an even moisture level. Beds should never be soggy or bone dry between waterings. Occasional deep watering is much better than frequent sprinkling.

Winter months	two waterings per month
Spring and Fall months	once a week.
Summer months	once every 3 to 5 days

Newly planted material should be watered every other day in the summer months, and once a week in the winter months.

Weed Control

Pull weeds by hand and mulch heavily. Weeds will not exist in bed areas if the soil is properly mulched with at least 3" of mulch. Herbicides should be used very selectively in the bed areas because most herbicides will damage foliage of shrubs and flowers or even possibly kill the plant if not used properly.

GROUND COVER AND VINE CARE

Pruning of vines

Ground covers and vines need no pruning at time of planting. Vines should be kept trimmed at the desired shape and size. Flowering vines should only be pruned immediately after they have stopped blooming. Pruning at other times can eliminate the next year's flower production.

Mulching, Fertilizing, and Watering

Follow the same guidelines listed for shrub care.

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS AND HERB CARE

Pruning

Spent flowers and stems of ornamental plants should be removed as they fade in order to encourage new blooms. Plants that have become damaged or diseased should be removed to the compost pile.

Mulching

Mulching the exposed soil area around the plants should be done at planting. Re-mulching should be done as any bare areas appear during the season.

Fertilizing

Annuals and perennials should be fertilized along with the shrubs and lawn with an organic based fertilizer three times per year in February, June, and September. Some annuals may require more frequent fertilization (pansies, petunias, begonias, and lantana) to stimulate and encourage growth.

Watering

Water is needed to maintain an even moisture level. Beds should never be soggy or bone dry between waterings. Occasional deep watering is much better than frequent sprinkling. Potted plants should be watered daily through the hot months and as needed during the cooler months. Seasonal color and perennials will need to be checked for water daily during the hot months of the year and watered if needed for the first couple of weeks until plants are established and going strong on their own.

Water Saving Tips

- Mulch all bare soil.
- Put bed areas and grass areas on different sections of the sprinkler system when possible.
- Run the sprinkler system manually when needed rather than on a set schedule.
- Water during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Avoid watering when windy, if possible.

LAWN CARE

Mowing

Maintenance of grass is the most time consuming and expensive part of garden maintenance. Mowing should be done on a regular basis and the clippings should be left on the lawn. No more than 1/3 of the leaf blade should be removed in any one mowing. Mow grass according to the growing season to the following guidelines:

Common Bermuda, St. Augustine, Fescue	2" – 3" once a week
Bermuda Tif	½" – ¾" twice a week
Buffalograss	3" – 4" once a month

For newly planted sod, mow after the sod begins to grow and is rooted down (generally after 2-3 weeks)

Note: Scalping should never be done, except before planting seed.

Fertilizing

Fertilizing of grass can be handled in exactly the same manner as trees and shrubs. In fact the most cost-effective technique is to fertilize everything in the garden at the same time. Never use weed and feed fertilizers. They are very dangerous as these types of fertilizers contain herbicides, which kill plants and trees. See the recommended **Fertilization Program** below for fertilizing schedule and for the fertilizers and foliar sprays we recommend using in your lawn and landscape.

Watering

Water is needed to maintain an even moisture level. Sod should never be soggy or bone dry between waterings.

Winter months	two waterings per month
Spring and Fall months	once a week.
Summer months	once every 3 to 5 days

For newly planted sod, water once per day, preferably in the early morning, for the first week or until sod is rooted down. Sod is rooted in when you cannot lift it away from the soil by gently grasping it. Water three times per week after sod is rooted down.

Hydro mulch

Water new hydromulch 2-3 times per day until seed is sprouted (usually 10-14 days). Set spray heads to run approximately 5 minutes, and rotor heads to run approximately 15-20 minutes. Cut watering down to once per day after seed is up for another week. Then set watering schedule for 3 times per week (spray heads for 15 minutes and rotor heads for 45 minutes). Mow young grass when it reaches 1-1/2" to 2" height.

FERTILIZING PROGRAM

Round #1 - February 1-15

- Organic fertilizer @ 20lbs / 1000 sqft.
- Lava sand @ 80 lbs / 1000 sqft.
- Horticultural Cornmeal @ 10 lbs / 1000 sqft.
- Apply beneficial nematodes to the soil for fire ants, grubs, and thrips control.

Round #2 - June 1-15

- Organic fertilizer @ 20lbs / 1000 sqft
- Texas Greensand @ 40lbs / 1000 sqft
- **Or**, Soft Rock Phosphate @ 30 lbs / 1000 sqft **if in acid soil areas**.

Round #3 - September 15-30

- Organic fertilizer @ 20lbs / 1000 sqft.

Foliar Feed with Organic Foliar Sprays (listed below) twice monthly.

Recommended Organic Fertilizers

Garden-Ville Soil Food 7-2-2 (Spring, Summer & Fall applications) dry granules

Foliar Sprays

Ladybug	**John's Recipe**
MaxiCrop	**Liquefied Seaweed and/or Liquefied Fish**
Nature's Guide	**Garrett Juice**

Keep in mind that everything mentioned here are just guidelines for basic care of your landscape. Every lawn and landscape will have different soils and conditions to deal with so use what will suit your lawn or landscape the best in your area.