

LANDSCAPE AFTERCARE GUIDE

Protecting Your Landscape Investment

Dear Valued Customer,

Thank you for choosing us to enhance your outdoor space! To ensure your new plantings thrive, we've put together a seasonal aftercare guide for your landscape. Following these steps will help your investment establish strong roots and grow beautifully for years to come.



WATERING

- Varies among different landscape settings, soil type and seasons. Water when soil around plantings is dry to the touch at a 2" – 4" depth. Overwatering is just as detrimental as underwatering. Summer months June – September are susceptible to dry spells so watering properly during these months is crucial compared to spring and fall months.
- Very important during the first full growing season. During the first year, your plantings will spend most of their energy growing a strong root system underground, this is what's referred to as the 'sleep' stage. The next stage is 'creep' where plantings will show moderate growth and their roots are established. Finally, in year three, the plantings will enter their 'leap' stage and experience significant growth, flowering and spread out.
- Water early in the day to ensure leaves are dry before night to prevent fungal disease.
- Don't forget to water plantings living beneath over-hangs or close to buildings!



PERENNIALS



FULL SUN PERENNIALS

(e.g. Coneflowers (Echinacea), Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia), Coreopsis (Tickseed), Lavender, Salvia, Daylilies (Hemerocallis), Sedum)

- ✓ Water deeply 2–3 times per week for the first month, then 1x/week during dry spells
- ✓ Mulch 2–3" around plants (keep away from crowns)
- ✓ Deadhead blooms regularly to prolong blooms and maintain a neat and clean aesthetic.
- ✓ Fertilize lightly with compost each spring to increase availability of air and water to the plants
- ✓ Division every 3–5 years in early spring/fall
- ✓ Prune dead foliage late winter/early spring



SHADE PERENNIALS

(e.g. Hosta's, ferns, astilbe, heuchera (coral bells), hellebores)

- ✓ Keep soil evenly moist
- ✓ Mulch to regulate soil temp and moisture
- ✓ Cut back old foliage late winter/early spring
- ✓ Divide every 3–5 years to rejuvenate



2025

BEST
OF
SPRINGFIELD

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WINNER



SIGNS OF UNDERWATERING

- Drooping, wilting, or curled leaves, which may feel dry and crispy.
- Other indicators are yellowing or browning leaves, slow growth, and dropped buds or flowers.
- The soil will also feel dry and may become hard and compacted.



SIGNS OF OVER WATERING

- Yellowing and wilting leaves despite wet soil, soft or mushy stems,
- fungal growth on the soil or plant, and stunted growth.
- Overwatered plants may also have drooping leaves, brown or black spots, and leaf drop.

**FIRST YEAR
ESTABLISHMENT**



SLEEP

Year 1:
Root
development



CREEP

Year 2:
Moderate
growth



LEAP

Year 3:
Rapid
growth



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GROUNDCOVERS

- Irrigation systems, sprinklers or soaker hoses, work best for watering large ground cover beds.
- Light mulching is advised.
- If planted in spring, water every other day for the first month to allow the groundcover to establish a root system, and once every week for the following 2 months. If planted in summer, check soil before, but daily watering could be necessary.
- After the first year, water every 2 weeks through summer months.



GRASS SEED

- Water lightly 1–2x daily until germination (10–14 days)
- Once sprouted: water less often, more deeply
- Apply starter fertilizer 30 days after initial seeding
- Also prior to the first mowing cut off or pull weeds growing in new grass
- First mowing: mow at 4" or above – do not mow below 3"



SOD

- Water immediately after installation until soaked
- First 2 weeks: water daily
- Weeks 3–4: water every other day
- After 1 month: water deeply 1–2x per week
- Avoid mowing until sod is firmly rooted (2–3 weeks)



ARTIFICIAL TURF

- is a low-maintenance alternative to natural grass, but periodic care is still needed to maintain appearance, drainage, and performance.
- Remove leaves, sticks, and debris regularly with a leaf blower, broom, or plastic rake to maintain appearance and drainage.



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE



PRUNING

Prune at the right time of year to promote healthy growth and maintain the natural shape of your plants.



MULCHING

Refresh mulch 1–2 times per year to conserve moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.



FERTILIZATION

Feed plants in spring and as recommended to encourage strong growth, vibrant color and long-term health.



PLANT HEALTH

Monitor for signs of pests or disease and address early to keep your landscape thriving all season long.



SEASONAL CARE CALENDAR



SPRING

- Refresh mulch
- Inspect plants
- Prune winter damage
- Fertilize
- Prepare beds



SUMMER

- Deep watering
- Monitor for insects
- Deadhead blooms
- Watch for heat stress



FALL

- Divide perennials
- Weed beds
- Refresh mulch
- Clean up leaves
- Plant new additions



WINTER

- Protect sensitive plants
- Avoid heavy pruning
- Plan for spring
- Enjoy your landscape!

TREE AFTERCARE



WATERING

- Check the root ball and nearby soil daily at first. Water when soil a few inches deep begins to dry; wait if it is still wet.
- Use a hose at a slow trickle or a soaker hose over the root ball. Let water soak in slowly; check that the root ball is moist a few inches down.
- Adjust for rain, heat, and drainage. Avoid standing water; lawn sprinklers alone may not be enough.



MULCH & ROOTS

- Maintain a broad, flat mulch ring about 2-3 inches deep.
- Keep mulch several inches away from the trunk. Leave the root flare visible; never mound mulch against bark.
- Keep grass and weeds out of the ring, and protect the trunk from mowers and string trimmers.



STAKES & PRUNING

- If staked, check ties regularly for rubbing or tightening. Ask Gillam to assess removal, usually after one growing season.
- Avoid heavy pruning while roots establish. Have broken or dead branches assessed.
- Ask before fertilizing; newly planted trees do not automatically need it.



SEASONAL CARE

- Check soil moisture through the first two growing seasons; larger trees may need longer.
- Continue watering during dry fall periods while the soil is unfrozen, especially for evergreens.
- Ask about trunk protection if deer rubbing or animal damage is a concern.

WHEN TO CONTACT GILLAM

Persistent wilting, early leaf drop, branch dieback, bark damage, or a leaning tree deserve a closer look. Check soil moisture before adding more water, and contact our team for guidance.