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Taking Care of Your New and Established Landscape

We hope that you are enjoying your new landscaping!

After a new landscape is installed a new germination of weeds will begin to appear due to all the soil being tilled up. Be mindful of the weeds and take care of pulling them when possible.

Please read through this thoroughly

Trees and Shrubs

- **Watering:** Be sure to water your plants for the first year of establishment, check the soil around the base of the tree/shrub once a week to determine the moisture level. If the soil is dry to the touch 1"-2" deep, then water should be applied.
Best time to water- morning or the evening.
How- Place the hose at the base of the plant, allowing the water to run at a slow trickle long enough to saturate the entire root zone. If the water tends to run off, it may help to go to another plant and then come back in a few minutes to complete the watering. Keeping a layer of mulch 2"-3" thick around your plantings will help to keep the moisture around the roots. Most trees will need periodic watering for 2-3 years after planting about every 3-4 weeks from June to September. The major reason plants do not survive transplanting is due to inadequate water available for the plant. Either too little or too much water can be the problem. Be aware of the type of soil you have (sandy soils drain very easily so you may need to water more often during hot and dry times of the year, clay soils do not drain well so be careful not to over water)
- **Fertilizing:** For the first year, applying a root stimulator fertilizer is a good way to jump start establishing your plants but is not completely necessary. After the first year, apply a balanced granular fertilizer such as 10-10-10 with at least 50% slow release Nitrogen. Follow instructions on label for application. The fertilizer should be applied around the drip line of the plant or to the outer edges of the root ball any time between April and June.
- **Pruning:** Pruning, in some capacity, every season, for the plant is a good thing if done properly for proper growth. The rule of thumb; if you want good flowering every season, prune shortly after the plant is done flowering. Remove any dead branches at the base and clean out crisscross branching to get a good forming plant.

Perennials (planted once- generally they come back every year on their own)

- **Watering:** Be sure to water your plants for the first year of establishment. Check perennials at the base every day or every other day checking the moisture level of the soil. If the soil around the plant is dry 1"-2" deep, water should be applied. Watering should be done in the early morning or evening. Spend a minute watering each plant or turn a sprinkler on for 30 minutes to 1 hour in a section. (Lamium does not like their leaves wet so water those at the base of the plant) Avoid watering the leaves and flowers of your plants.
- **Fertilizing:** For the first year, applying a root stimulator fertilizer is a good way to jump start establishing your plants but is not completely necessary. For future years, fertilizing will improve plant vigor and in turn give you more flowers to enjoy and for a longer period of time. You can fertilize with a product like "Miracle-Gro" which is an instant fertilizer that fertilizes for around 7-10 days. The other option would be to use a slow release fertilize, such as Osmocote. This will fertilize with each

watering and it is applied in early spring. A general use fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 can be used as an additional option. Do check the package for accurate application rates.

- **Deadheading:** If you want to increase your bloom time cut off spent blooms often (weekly).

Annuals (planted every year and dies at frost)

- **Watering:** Generally, water annuals daily, always important to check first to see if they are saturated yet from prior watering or not. Constant saturation will rot the roots and ultimately kill your plants. Pay attention to location, if it is hot, sunny, and windy- those plants are going to need more water than ones that are on a shady porch. It is best if you are watering the base of plants instead of the flower or leaves, the root is the part of the plant that absorbs the water to benefit the plant. The flowers and leaves could mold if they are directly hit with water too often. Be sure not to over or underwater, and that the container has good drainage.
- **Fertilizing:** For optimal growth and flowering, fertilizing should be done at least once weekly for annuals. Be sure that soil is moist before fertilizing, otherwise if the plants are starved for water the plants will burn out from the fertilizer being added.
- **Deadheading/Pruning:** For better flowering that lasts throughout the summer season prune the dead flowers off the plant. This allows for room to grow new beautiful blooms. It also helps to lightly prune the foliage weekly or every other week to keep it full and not get out of control or leggy.

Seeded and Sodded Lawns

- **Care:** Seeded lawns should be kept moist until a uniform stand of grass is established (one full growing season at least). Apply enough water to keep the soil moist, but not so much to cause run off. Sod should be watered daily the first week after installation. After the first week, sod should be watered every 2 - 3 days. If the sod shows signs of drying or turning brown, it should be watered immediately. The morning or evening is the best time to water.
- **Additional Information:**
 - Straw is applied to seeded lawns to help keep moisture at the ground and seed level for proper seed germination and seeding growth. There is no need to rake up the straw.
 - If a straw blanket was applied you can attempt to pull this up and discard or just keep your lawnmower blade height up to avoid getting the blanket mesh entangled on your mower blades. There is no need to rake up any straw.
 - Mow after the grass has grown 4-6 inches tall and blades seem thicker than when they first germinated. *Make sure to water after cutting as this drains the seedlings of available water*
 - A root stimulating fertilizer could be applied to jump start the seedlings.
 - After months of good establishment, a regular lawn fertilizer is recommended as well as weed treatment if weeds are present.

WEEDING

- It is important to keep weeds away from your desirable plants for them to take advantage of the resources in its area to grow happy and healthy. Do not spray roundup too close to your plants as drift, etc. can cause them to suffer and die. If manually weeding, use a trowel to loosen the soil near the base of the weed and pull the weed getting the majority, if not all, of the root. Avoid weeds from flowering and going to seed, otherwise you will have an entire new crop of weeds on its way.

FALL CLEANUP

- Fall cleanups are performed anytime between September-December to remove all leaves from beds, prune back perennials, prune necessary trees and shrubs, and removal of annuals. Performing a cleanup in the fall helps make your garden look neat and tidy and will limit the chance of mold to appear in the beds. Also, your beds will be all ready to go in the spring aside from needing to do weeding and cleaning out whatever debris blew in the beds during the winter. Be sure not to prune spring flowering plants in the fall, unless you do not care about not having flowers on it in the coming Spring.

SPRING CLEANUP

- Spring cleanups are performed after winter is over and the ground begins to unfreeze. The purpose of spring cleanups is to dispose of all the leaves, sticks, and weeds that were left over from fall and/or winter. Spring cleanups are extremely important because if the ground is covered by leaves, previous years dead growth and other debris will make it more difficult for your plants to sprout and grow. Prune non-spring flowering shrubs in the spring. It is important that your perennials are cut back before they start emerging out of the ground so their growth is not inhibited

MULCHING

- If your beds have mulch as its covering: For proper plant growth mulching is very important. Mulching allows for a natural weed barrier and it also holds the water doing close to the plants so that they are properly watered. It is recommended that mulching be redone every other year. Your bed edge should be reestablished when remulching.

<u>Possible Signs of Under-watering</u>	<u>Possible Signs of Over-Watering</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upward curling or rolling of leaves• Yellowing and browning of leaf tips• Interior needle and leaf drop on conifers• Leaf, blossom, and fruit drop• Under-sized leaves• Twig and branch dieback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaves turn a lighter shade of green or yellow• Young shoots are wilted• Growth is excessive• Algae and/ or mushrooms are on or around plants• Powdery mildew is appearing on the leaves

Note: After an installation, a lot of soil moving happens which most likely will bring up weed seeds that are dormant but already in your soil. When those weed seeds are brought to the surface they come out of dormancy and germinate. Therefore, you may see a weed starting to develop in your garden that you have never seen before. Also, you may see a flush of weed growth a few weeks after we have completed your project. It is important that you get out there and weed the bed well before things get out of hand.

IMPORTANT PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE INFORMATION - i.e. roundup, preen, etc.

* When applying be sure to read the label thoroughly on the product you would like to use and follow it. Some products don't work on certain plants and some products really can harm desirable plants. For example: It is not good to spread preen around ajuga or hydrangea as it will cause them to suffer and eventually die. Be aware of the plants you have.

* Be sure not to spray pesticides when it is windy because it can drift on to the plants you want and trees.

* Protect yourself- wear gloves, long sleeves, pants, and closed toed shoes when you are applying. Wash your clothes separately.

* Stay out of the area for the recommended time frame- Keep your family and animals out.

* Always read the label thoroughly before applying to avoid harming yourself, others, the environment and your desirable plants