

Landscape Care Guide

This guide was developed to help answer most of the questions new homeowners have concerning the care and maintenance of their new landscape installation. Please familiarize yourself with everything in this booklet which pertains to the basic essentials in maintaining your landscaping.

Sodded Lawn Care

- All turf is a form of bermuda, therefore, your lawn will go dormant (turn brown) in the cooler months unless it has been overseeded with winter rye grass.
- New turf will require water 3 times per day, 3-5 minutes each interval for the first 3 weeks. (During this time, do not walk on the turf area). After 3 weeks, reduce the watering to once per day for 10-12 minutes at sunrise. New turf will be uneven. Turf areas will level out over time with weekly mowing. If you desire a quicker leveling, you may fix seams and low spots with a mixture of 50% sand and 50% fine garden mulch.
- Mowing should start after the first 2 weeks. Make sure your sod is dry, and that you're mowing at a higher setting for the first 90 days.
- In summer, fertilize with ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) every 30 days, and gypsum every 45 days. In winter (for winter rye) fertilize with ammonia nitrate (34-0-0) every 30 days and gypsum every 45 days. No fertilizer is required in the winter if you choose not to overseed your lawn.
- To avoid a lumpy, uneven grass area, please do not walk on your grass for the first 3 weeks.

Citrus Trees

- Do not fertilize this tree for the first year. After one year, apply ammonium sulfate three to four times per year (Feb., May, August). Apply in accordance with the manufacturer recommendation. Citrus trees also prefer to be on a separate irrigation system from shrubs. These trees should be deep watered and then allowed to dry out before being watered again. (Once per week is a general guide)

Queen Palms

- Queen palms, unlike Mexican fan palms, require special care. Queen palms preferably should be on a separate irrigation line from shrubs to provide deep watering. Queen palms also need to be watered more often than other palms. You'll need to fertilize your Queen palm with 1/4 cup of ammonium sulfate once per month, epsom salt 1/4. cup once every 90 days, palm tree food every 90 days. These palms also prefer to have enriched compost around the top of the root ball.

Desert Trees

- Desert trees are native to this area and do not require any fertilization. Your drip emitters will be close to the root ball of the tree when first installed, and should be pulled away as the tree matures to approximately one half the diameter of the

canopy. This will help prevent the tree from blowing over and assist in developing a healthier root system. Once the tree is established you should eliminate the drip system to the tree and water deeply with the hose two (2) times per month.

Non Desert Trees

- Non desert trees such as citrus, ficus, elms, and palms (just to name a few) prefer additional water supplied from a separate irrigation line. These trees will require more fertilizers and generally do better when planted as a young tree (15 gal. or smaller) vs. a mature specimen, which will have a hard time with acclimation.

Shrub Care

- Desert shrubs require no fertilization. Non desert shrubs require fertilization twice per year with ammonium sulfate or a general fertilizer (16-8-4), once in the spring and once in the fall.

Cactus

- Cacti that are grown in pots from the nursery need irrigation. Cacti that come from the nursery with the roots exposed do not need irrigation. Cacti need good drainage away from the roots and do not require any fertilizer.

Ocotillos

- This type of cactus requires small amounts of water and takes up to three years to produce any signs of life. Water your ocotillo during dry periods with a garden hose to maintain a healthy look.

Dormant Schedule

- Listed below is a partial listing of plants which go into a dormant state during part of the year. This means the plant looks as though it is dying, no flowers, no leaves, brown in color, etc..

<u>Winter Dorment Plants/Trees</u>	<u>Summer Dorment Plants/Trees</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lantana • Chinese Elm • Red bird of paradise • Mesquite • Ruellia Brittonia • Palo brea • Ruellia Katy Lysiloma • Desert willow • Shamel Ash	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mexican primrose • Desert Marigold • Verbena • Salvia Greggii • Brittle bush • Pentsemon • Blackfoot Daisy

Weed Control

- Pre-emergent twice per year is the best weed control agent in granite areas. Plastic overlays are no longer used. Some weed growth will occur even after

treatment and should be manually removed.

Watering

<u>FIRST 30 DAYS</u>	<u>Summer</u> (Above 85° Daytime High)	<u>Winter</u> (Below 85° Daytime High)
New plants & trees	(2) x 20 min. each day	(1) x 30min. each day
New sod	(3) x 6 min. each day	(1) x 8 min. each day

<u>AFTER 30 DAYS TO 6 MONTHS</u>	<u>Summer</u> (Above 85° Daytime High)	<u>Winter</u> (Below 85° Daytime High)
Plants	(1) x 40 min. every other day	(1) x 45 min. every 3 days
Trees	(1) x 90 min. every other day	(1) x 90 min. every 4 days
Sod	(1) x 10 min. every day	(1) x 10 min. every other day

<u>AFTER SIX MONTHS</u>	<u>Summer</u> (Above 85° Daytime High)	<u>Winter</u> (Below 85° Daytime High)
Plants	(1) x 60 min. every 3 days	(1) x 90 min. every 4 days
Trees	(1) x 120 min. every 3 days	(1) x 120 min. every 4 days
Sod	(1) x 10 min. every day	(1) x 15 min. every other day

During periods of extreme heat or wind, increase length of water time. Turn off watering system at the clock during wet periods.

Water Emergency Shut-Off

If your system will not shut off from the clock, go to the front yard hose bibb. Off to the side you will see a small metal device which has two handles. Turn either handle in the opposite direction and this will stop water to your irrigation system.

Granite

- Rocks are a natural product and will vary in size and color from delivery to delivery. Minus or decomposed rock contains 60% to 80% crushed granite sand. Screened rock contains approximately 40% to 60% crushed granite sand, and sized rock contains approximately 20% crushed granite sand.

Irrigation Troubleshooting

- Listed below is a listing of potential irrigation problems with solutions, and helpful maintenance tips:

- *How do I turn off my water if I have a major leak?* Go to the front yard hose bibb, off to the side you will see a small metal device which has two handles. Turn either handle in the opposite direction and this will stop water to your irrigation system.

- *How often do I need to physically inspect my irrigation system?* At least every 30 days! Your grass sprinklers will come out of adjustment, emitters will blow off lines causing leaks, some emitters will clog over time through calcium build up by city water, and the list goes on.... Manually turn on each valve from your controller and physically walk your yard and check every plant, tree, & sod area.

Frost Protection

- The following plants must be covered when temperatures drop below 45 degrees. DO NOT use plastic to cover plants; use dry bed sheets, burlap, frost guard fabric...

Citrus	Hibiscus	Purple Leaf
Ficus	Dalbergia Sissoo	Pigmy Date Palms
Agaves	Cape Honeysuckle	Plumbago
Plumb	Lantanas	Sago Plums
Wedelia Trilobata	Bougainvillea	Natal Plum
Dwarf Oleander	Tecoma Orange Jubilee	Sambac Arabian
Arizona Yellow Bells	Exposed Tropical Bird of Paradise	

- Put styrofoam on growth tips of Mexican Fence Post, Senita and other small specimens of Organ Pipe type Cactus.