

# Plant Care Instructions 2025

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Please take the time to learn about your plants. Proper watering, fertilizing and maintenance are vital to ensuring your new perennials will endure long after it is installed.

## Gardens

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Please remember that a well-designed garden will not look full when first planted. The plants will just be babies and require time to grow. A shrub may look small now, but you will be amazed at how fast it grows. Depending on the time of year and the plant variety that is being used, please allow for the plant to either be cut down for the season or planting something that is dormant with no leaves. We will never plant anything that is not up to expectations. Some plants may require more water than others. Cedars and Hydrangeas are examples of plants that require higher amounts of water, as grasses and sedums are more drought resistant. If you are ever not sure, please feel free to contact us. Rabbits and other animals cause destruction with newly planted gardens every year in many parts of the GTA. Over the winter is the worst time, as food is limited for the rabbits. Wrapping or covering the plants may be required. Winter Protection -- Some plants need an extra layer or protection to get them through the first couple of winters. These plants include Emerald Cedars, Japanese Maples, and others.

## Fertilizer

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Exactly how often you fertilize your plants depends on the types you are growing and the time of year. Some garden plants are heavy feeders (meaning they need more nutrients than others). These tend to be species that grow fast and bloom a lot, including most annuals, fruits, veggies, roses, and hydrangeas. These plants appreciate being fed about once a month during their growing season with a general-purpose liquid fertilizer. Other plants, including some perennials, trees, and shrubs, don't need much fertilizer at all—especially if you add plenty of compost or other organic material to their soil before planting. You may want to feed them once in the spring as they start ramping up their growth.

## Watering

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New plants may have different requirements than those that are established already. Watering is the most effective way to keep your new plants happy and healthy. Follow these steps and you should be just fine.

### Watering Tip #1

The First Day. Whenever possible, watering of the plants should happen along with planting them. Have the hose on a slow/medium drip and water each plant as you move along. This is not always done by contractors, but that's ok.

### Watering Tip #2

The First night. This is the time to soak the soil. Let the sprinkler run for well over 2 hours and soak the soil as much as possible. Length of time really depends on the size of the garden. The Objective is to soak the soil, however long that might take.

### Watering Tip #3

Day 2 and 3 – continue to soak the soil with 1-2 hours of watering. This can be morning or night. Best in the morning. Not mid-day, this will cause foliage damage!

### Watering Tip #4

First 1-2 weeks – after the first three days, continue to water your plants every second day. We still want the soil to be wet. Shadier gardens will require less water.

### Watering Tip #5

The rest of the summer – continue soaking your gardens beds once a week for the rest of the summer. Especially if they are in full sun. Garden beds should have 2-3" of mulch to hold in the moisture.

### Watering Tip #6

If the summer is really hot and dry, please water more. This first year is the most important time to water.

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## Weed Control

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Prevention is obviously a key component in weed control. If you can keep weeds from getting a root-hold in the first place, they won't overwhelm your horticultural efforts. Once you have your beds planted, spread a generous layer of mulch; about 2 inches. Not only will this help your soil to retain moisture, but it will also cut down on the weeds' ability to grow. This way, you can spend less time weeding your gardens and more time enjoying them! If you have any questions or would like some assistance with this step, feel free to reach out.

## Pruning

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Certain plants, bushes, and trees will require more pruning than others. Pruning can be performed once or twice a year to maintain shape. Our gardeners can advise you as to the procedure for each perennial and the schedule when pruning should be performed. A desired shape can be obtained only through successive shaping as most times it is not possible to obtain a final shape from an overgrown shrub. In these circumstances a small amount of removal is preferred to allow the shrub to fill in sparse areas before pruning further.