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## **Landscape Seasonal Care**

Now that your landscape project is complete we'd like to offer some advice on how to keep your plantings looking their best. Follow the guidelines below for basic care:

### **Deciduous Trees:**

- Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release balanced fertilizer, for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application
- It is best to prune trees during dormancy - after the cold winter months and before the buds break in spring (February/early March)
- Look for and remove cross-branching (branches that physically rub against each other), suckers and any diseased branches
- Always step back and assess the shape of the tree canopy prior to pruning to help make an informed decision on what branches need removed

### **Evergreen Trees:**

- Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release balanced fertilizer, for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application
- Prune all evergreens, except pine, before new growth starts in the spring or during the semi-dormant period in mid-summer
- When pruning, follow the general branching pattern to maintain the natural shape
- Remove dead, diseased, or broken branches anytime

### **Deciduous Shrubs:**

- Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release balanced fertilizer, for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application
- Certain shrubs may require specialized fertilizer (ex. rhododendrons, roses, etc.)
- Prune to shape after flowering for most spring/summer blooming shrubs (ex. lilacs, oakleaf/mophead hydrangea, weigela, etc.) as these bear flowers on previous year's growth
- Shrubs that bloom on the current year's wood should be pruned in early spring before bud break (ex. butterfly bush, shrub roses, etc.)
- Rejuvenation pruning should occur in late winter or early spring

### **Evergreen Shrubs:**

- Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release balanced fertilizer, for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application
- Prune before new growth starts in the spring or during the semi-dormant period in mid-summer
- When pruning, follow the general branching pattern to maintain the natural shape. We only recommend shearing when a formal hedge is desired
- Remove dead, diseased, or broken branches anytime

### **Ornamental Grasses and Perennials:**

- Fertilize perennials every 4-6 weeks during the growing season with a general purpose balanced granular fertilizer (such as 12-12-12, 14-14-14, or 10-10-10) for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application
- Some perennials benefit from dead-heading through the growing season to encourage reblooming (ex. salvia, coreopsis, veronica, etc.)
- Prune back to mulch for clean look through the winter months
- If desired, leave ornamental grasses through the winter for added landscape interest. Prune in late winter approximately 3-5" above mulch

### **Groundcovers:**

- Fertilize in late fall with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application
- Most are evergreen, so once established require little attention other than keeping them within their location in the landscape
- Deciduous groundcover (ex. liriopse) performs best if trimmed back in early spring once new growth has emerged
- Fertilize every 4-6 weeks during the growing season with a general purpose granular fertilizer (such as 12-12-12, 14-14-14, or 10-10-10) for best results. Follow the label for recommended rate of application