



Congratulations on your new landscaping! The following information will be key to the success of your landscape, so please read through and keep this guide for your reference.

The first season is often the toughest for new plants becoming established in a new space. Although Kemora chooses high quality plants from local sources that are free of disease, some of these plants may have been sitting above ground at the nursery for some time, so may show signs of stress including spotty leaves, slow growth, etc. After year one, plants will typically begin to grow and fill in more, showing less to no signs of stress. If you have a concern, feel free to snap a few pictures of the plant and email to your designer.

Trees and shrubs are guaranteed for one growing season, so if they still look stressed after over wintering in place, contact us to find out if replacement is necessary.



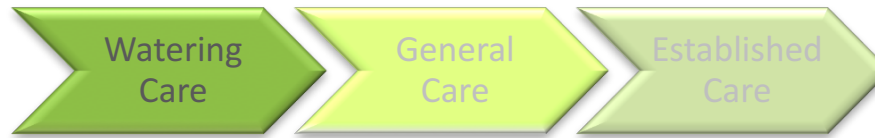
Watering Method & Tips



Getting started - The most important aspect of caring for your new landscape will be watering. New plants need to be watered regularly for the first season, approximately 2-3 times per week or approximately every other day. However this varies a lot depending on soil type, sun and wind exposure. To know how often you should water in your landscaped space, test soil moisture level initially by sticking a finger into the planting bed about 2-3" to tell if it is still wet. Wait a day if it feels wet and test again. Do water if it feels dry. Test a few areas if sun hits them differently. Once you've tested for about two weeks, this should give you a good idea of how often to be watering your particular planted areas. You may need to adjust slightly as the weather becomes warmer or cooler with seasonal changes.

Method & Duration. Newly installed landscaping is most easily watered using a sprinkler. The sprinkler may need to be moved around in order to cover the entire area. Leave sprinkler on for about 30 minutes in each area so that the ground is thoroughly moist below just the surface layer.





Watering Amounts

Amount. Shrubs, perennials and ground cover need about 1" of water per week on average, which equates to about 2-3 times weekly. Give the soil time to dry out between watering, but keep watch for plants that look wilted. Wilting, most often during hot summer weather, means the plant(s) need additional watering. For sod instructions, see separate care sheet.

Containers. Plants in containers tend to dry out more quickly than in-ground plantings. For small containers, daily watering is recommended. For containers larger than 30", follow above watering care instructions.

Over-watering. Remember that it's possible to over-water your plants. Watering daily is only recommended for containers, not in-ground plantings.



Trees. New trees require additional watering beyond regular sprinkler watering. This can be done by removing the sprinkler and placing the end of the hose on a slow trickle a few inches from the trunk of each newly planted tree. Leave hose on this setting for about 30-45 minutes for each tree, 1-2 times per week until temperatures are regularly around freezing. If you have many new trees, soaker hoses or gator bags also can work to water trees more efficiently.

Winter Watering for Evergreens. If there are periods of winter and early spring where the temperatures are above freezing and there has not been snow cover or precipitation in more than a few days, watering is needed for evergreens. If they become too dry in winter, they may display brown needles or declining health once the spring comes. Dumping ice cubes or pouring water from a bucket at the base of the plant one time per week will avoid declining health.



Pruning. This is important to keep the shape and size at the desired level for your space. The time of year to prune varies by type of plant. Most perennials are best cut back after flowering and/or at the end of the growing season in October-November. Pruning when weather is below or close to freezing is not recommended. Consult a reliable source or Kemora Landscapes for more information on when to prune specific plants.

Wrapping. If your yard is frequented by deer or rabbits, protecting the trunk of your new tree or shrub (or perennial planting areas) with mesh or tree wrap for the first few seasons may help avoid damage, especially during winter months. Kemora's plant warranty does not cover animal or insect damage, so protecting plants or informing us of potential issues before the plant is beyond help is important.



Deadheading. Removing spent flowers on your perennials can improve the look of the plant and in some cases encourage re-blooming, but is not required.

Cultivating Soil. Lightly tilling soil around your plants (but not directly at their roots) once a season is helpful to encourage nutrient absorption and air flow.

Dividing. Many perennials benefit from being divided after a few seasons or when they overgrow the space. If flowering is reduced or growth is less vigorous, it may be time to divide. Dig a few inches below the soil around part of the plant, gather roots and move to a new space. Re-plant immediately.



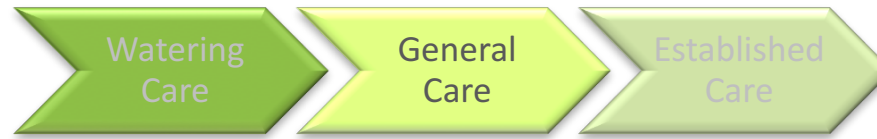
General Care Instructions



Mulching. Using a finely shredded hardwood or leaf mulch around the base of new plantings helps retain moisture and protect roots, but do not mound mulch against the plant. The mulch should be lower immediately around the base, getting higher as it moves away. Shoot for 3-4" depth, avoiding areas with ground cover or plants you want to spread. Mulch that has colored dyes is not recommended as these chemicals may affect plant health.

Fertilizing. This is not required for the success of your new plants. We strive to choose plants that are appropriate for the climate, space and light conditions they are placed in. If you choose to fertilize your plants, we recommend spreading a slow-release, granular fertilizer on the soil once at the beginning of the season instead of a liquid type that may burn leaves and roots, especially the first growing season. If you'd like to add nutrients to your soil in the future, it's best to add leaf compost or a mix of sand and compost, lightly filling into existing soil every 2-3 years.





Hardscape & Carpentry Care

Hardscapes. These require minimal maintenance, but adding more sand to joints every few years will help keep weeds from growing in open joint areas. Power washing on a light setting can be done as needed and dish detergent mixed with water can be used to remove temporary staining from leaves and debris. You should also use caution when moving furniture across hardscape surfaces to avoid scratching. These materials are durable but like wood flooring in your home, they can scratch.



Carpentry. For decking, pergolas, fencing, etc, we use woods like cedar or pressure treated that are suited for outdoor applications, so staining is not required, but the wood color will change naturally over time as it's exposed to the elements. If you do choose to stain, wait 3-6 months after installation so the wood dries, then choose a high quality stain. This can last about 3-5 years if applied correctly. Painting these surfaces can be more difficult since it often doesn't last as long and can become slippery on horizontal surfaces, so is not recommended.



OWNER'S MANUAL: YOUR SEASONAL GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHED LANDSCAPE



MARCH

- Remove leaves and debris that have collected in yard areas over the winter
- Check mulch level in planting beds and add more about every other year, preferably a hardwood mulch that does not contain colors or dyes. Mulch keeps nutrients in the soil and gives beds a polished look.

APRIL

- Trim ornamental grasses to about 6" above the ground to allow new spring growth (if not cut down already in the fall)
- Install spring annuals, if desired
- Sod can be cut and installed and/or grass seed applied to patchy areas (weather dependent); water regularly after installation

MAY

- Prune spring flowering shrubs as needed (0-3 weeks AFTER flowering or you will cut off flower buds)*
- Water established plants about once per week on average, more during dry/drought periods
- Frost period for perennials ends and perennials can be planted in ground

JUNE

- Install summer annuals, if desired. Some annuals like tropicals are best planted in June
- Tropical plants are safe to plant in containers as annuals or to bring out from inside
- Keep up with weeding this month by hand or pushing sprouts up with a rake or garden hoe. Many trees drop seeds this month, which can grow quickly, so best to pull early on.
- Apply preventative lawn treatment for grubs as needed

JULY

- Dry season begins; observe plantings for additional watering needs during summer months. Wilting leaves or crispy leaf edges can be an indication that the plants need more water.

AUGUST

- Check for patches of orange slime mold on mulch areas during humid weather conditions; bag and remove as needed



SEPTEMBER

- Aerate and overseed lawn areas as needed

OCTOBER

- Install fall annuals, if desired
- Remove fallen leaves and cut back dormant perennial foliage
- Take tropical plants you want to keep alive indoors
- Apply anti-desiccant to protect evergreens over the winter.

NOVEMBER

- Plant spring blooming bulbs like daffodils now so they can overwinter
- Continue watering plants weekly until temperatures regularly approach freezing
- Add mulch to planting beds if you didn't in spring or level is low
- Shut off outdoor water spigot at indoor valve to avoid leaks and pipe cracks



DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

- Install winter and holiday decor, if desired
- Avoid getting excess salt onto grass and planting beds; this can cause damage or death
- Use a salt alternative on wood decks and natural stone walks/patios. Standard salt can damage these porous surfaces over time.
- Heavy snow on shrubs can cause splitting branches or openings in the center of the plant, especially arborvitae and boxwood. Shake or brush off excess snow to avoid this.
- Evergreens are not dormant in winter so still need a water source, typically snow or rain. If there is a period over 2-3 weeks without precipitation, pour a bucket of ice around the base of evergreens to keep them hydrated, or some branches may brown and die come spring
- Dormant prune deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves and go dormant for the winter) as needed*



Kemora is available to help you tackle any of the maintenance or seasonal projects mentioned above. We offer a variety of flexible maintenance options. Contact us at 773-910-1800 for a quote!