

SCOTLAND YARDS CARE GUIDE:

Tree and Shrub Care

Scotland Yards is now finished invading your yard. What should you do? Some advice from the best landscaping company around can help.

The first two weeks is a critical time for your plants. You should make ample time for care of your new plants. The best time to water is early in the day, but if you can't make that happen -- don't worry -- JUST WATER!

If you do not already have one, you should invest in a hose, timer and sprinkler. With irrigation systems, it is crucial that you inspect your system carefully to make sure it reaches all new plantings. Most systems will need adjustment after new plant installation. Also, make sure the settings are adequate for proper water distribution for plant establishment, not maintenance.

When in doubt, water. Don't worry about overwatering your new plants, worry about under watering them.

Dane's sage advice: Place an old pie pan near the plants, when the sprinkler fills the pie pan, you're done watering until the next time. Think of it as a homemade rain gauge.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Your plant's root balls are much smaller right now, watering every 3-4 days is necessary for trees and shrubs.

Place a hose at the base of the plant; allow the water to gently flow onto the root ball of the plant, the same pressure as a drinking fountain. The rate of flow should be such that it soaks into the soil without running off or pooling beside it.

You can water each plant individually -- 5 to 10 minutes per four feet of plant, or place a sprinkler to cover the area for several (3-5) hours. A combination of both these suggestions is the best method.



PERENNIALS AND GROUNDCOVER

Perennials and groundcovers should be watered every 2-3 days.

These plants have much smaller root balls than trees and shrubs, and will need more frequent watering. Sprinklers are the easiest way to apply water. A sprinkler should be set to run for 1 to 2 hours allowing water to penetrate the top 6"-12" inches of soil, again, use the pie pan method.

Now that the first two weeks are over, your new plants require less frequent watering. You should now reduce watering to 1-2 times per week. Though, each watering must be a deep, thorough soaking. The rule of thumb is to apply one inch of water per week. You can continue to use the pie pan in the planting area and make sure the sprinkler, or the sky, fills it to the recommended amount.

General rule: one inch of water wets the soil to a depth of 8"- 10" inches.

The applied mulch will help maintain soil moisture. Dry, windy days mean the need for more watering. Cool, wet weather will require far less. So that you maintain proper moisture, it is important to check the soil conditions.

If you are unsure of the moisture level, probe the soil with a shovel or trowel. If the ground is dry, then add water, obviously. If the ground is moist, relax and worry about watering later. Remember, now that the roots are established, too much water is as great a danger as too little.

Maintaining proper watering during the first growing season is the single most important factor in successful plant preservation. Do not hesitate to call Dane with any questions; he wants your garden to flourish.



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