



LAMMSCAPES!

Watering Guidelines for your Plants

The general rule of thumb is that you need **an average of one inch of water per week**. Tailor your watering schedule to the weather conditions, soil type and the needs of the specific plants in your area.

Remember that too much water can be just as harmful to the plant as not enough water. A thorough weekly watering is much better for the plant than light daily water!!!

- Always soak newly planted stock thoroughly after installation
- Then water at least 2 times/week for the first month, depending on the weather.
- For the remainder of the season, water once per week until the ground freezes.
- Keep in mind, our Wisconsin soils and weather vary tremendously! Watering schedules should be altered for unusual conditions:

Heavy clay soil or cool, rainy weather – Water half as often. An inch rainfall during the week will usually eliminate your need to water.

Sandy, gravel-like soil or very hot weather – Water twice as often.

Perennials and plants with smaller root systems - Will usually require more frequent watering than large trees.

Foundation plants under house overhangs – May need regular watering, even after they are established because rain does not reach them.

Mulch in your planting beds – Bark mulch will help to retain moisture & reduce weeds in your beds. Monitor plants and soil areas to prevent areas that are too wet.

How do I know when to water?

Check the soil alongside the root ball 12-18” below the surface. If it feels dry to the touch – water. If it feels wet to the touch – cultivate the area to allow oxygen into the soil.

What time of day should I water?

The best times to water are in the **morning** or the **late afternoon**. Watering mid – day leads to the water evaporating before the plants can use it and may even burn the leaves. Watering at night can lead to fungal problems.

When should I stop watering in the Fall?

Continue watering as needed until the soil freezes. Evergreens especially need plenty of water in the fall so their needles aren't dried out by the winter wind and sun!

LANDSCAPE • GARDEN & DESIGN

2708 Sherman Road Jackson, WI 53037 Phone: (262) 677-3010 Fax: (262) 677-0505 www.lammscape.com



LAMMSCAPES!

Fertilizing Guidelines for your Plants

Newly Planted and Transplanted Plant Stock

Use Fertilome Root Stimulator when planting or transplanting to reduce transplant shock and increase root development. Apply according to package directions.

Follow up with an additional application several weeks after planting and then once a month throughout the season. Pour the fertilizer water solution on the soil in the root zone, not over the tops of your plants since it can potentially burn tender new foliage.

Time to Stop Fertilizing

From about August 15th to October 15th, it is best to avoid doing things that promote fall growth. Fertilizing or pruning at that time encourages new, tender growth that may not be winter hardy.

Established plants

Fertilize all your plants at least once a year. The best time to fertilize is in early spring and/or late Fall. These nutrients help develop top growth, leaf color, flower production and even pest resistance! Consult our landscape & garden team at LAMMSCAPES! about what kind of fertilizer suits your long-term landscape needs.

Other Recommendations

- Never alternate using fertilizer and weed killer in a sprayer; keep separate sprayer for each.
- Never apply fertilizer greater than the recommended rate.
- Never leave granular fertilizer to sit on leaves as it may burn them.

Fertilization is an important part of caring for mature trees. In a natural forest situation, decaying vegetation is broken down into nutrients in the soil where plants can easily use them. In landscapes, where leaves and grass clippings are removed from the lawn, less nutrients are available for the trees. Fertilization by man is necessary substitute for nature.

Mature trees will tell you that they need fertilization. Look for:

- Sparse foliage
- Small, poorly colored leaves
- Short annual twig growth
- Large amounts of deadwood
- Dieback at the ends of branches

Fertilizing your mature shade trees:

1. Fertilize the feeder root area by making imaginary circles at 2 foot intervals under the tree to 6 to 8 feet beyond the dripline of the outermost branches.
 2. Make holes in each circle 2 feet apart and 12-15” deep with a crowbar, soil auger or probe.
 3. Evenly divide the recommended amount of fertilizer among the holes.
 4. Cap the holes with peat moss, sand or soil to avoid damaging existing turf.
- You may also broadcast fertilizer over a mulched root zone or double the rate of lawn fertilizer over the root zone.
 - Mature evergreens may be fertilized the same way, being careful not to let the fertilizer come in contact with the foliage.



Pruning Guidelines for your Plants

Pruning is important:

- To remove old, diseased parts of the plant
- To make plants more vigorous and dense
- To formalize the outline of the plant
- To maintain the desired size of the plant
- To increase flower and fruit production
- To offset root loss at the time of planting

When to Prune:

1. Spring blooming shrubs are best pruned right after flowering
2. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned during the dormant period since they produce flowers on the current seasons wood (November – March). These shrubs may also be pruned during the summer to touch them up
3. Non-flowering shrubs can be pruned anytime from November to August
4. Shrubs with structure like trees, generally require little pruning. If desired, prune during dormant period, when needed.

How to Prune:

1. A general rule in pruning is to remove approximately 1/3 of the plant. Touch up in mid-summer to remove old flower heads and stimulate additional bloom.
2. Renewal prune periodically to maintain or improve shape and/or structure of the plant.
 - Remove oldest, heaviest canes at ground level to stimulate new growth at the base of the plant.
 - Remove only 1/3 to 1/2 of the old canes at a time.
 - Prune back younger canes to about 1/3 to 1/2 their original height to maintain shape.
3. Remove outer tips to increase density and maintain shape. As the plant matures, you may remove some larger canes at ground level to reduce overall size.
4. Perennials and some shrubs may be cut back to approximately 6" at the end of the season.

5. Reshape more structured plants when needed by selectively cutting branches back to major side branches or lateral buds. Remove any crossing or rubbing branches to improve the overall structure of the plant.

Tips for Pruning Evergreens:

Broadleaf evergreens can be left to grow naturally or pruned into a desired shape as with a deciduous shrub. Examples: Boxwood, Euonymus, Holly and Rhododendrons

Yews Prune in early spring and again in mid-summer, if desired.

Junipers shape, as needed, from mid- May to mid- August.

Arborvitae shape, as needed, from mid-May to mid-August.

Pine & Spruce prune, if needed, around mid-May, when they are candling (new growth).
Snap off candles 1/2 to 2/3 from the tip



Guidelines for your New Lawn

We have just completed the installation of your newly seeded lawn. We have taken care to pick the best grass seed for your site, to grade proper drainage, and to apply a starter fertilizer to give the seed nourishment as it germinates. The seed for your new lawn is in the ground and ready to grow. Your careful nurturing is an essential element in insuring that the seeds will sprout and grow to maturity quickly.

1. Moisture -

- Before germination, until seedlings are 1"-2" tall, you must keep the soil moist at all times. Light, frequent watering will insure the seed remains uniformly moist at all times. If the seed dries out, it won't germinate. If new seedlings dry out, they will die. At the same time, you can kill the seedling with too much water by drowning them. Watch the weather and monitor the top ½" of soil. This top ½" should remain moist at all times. If it's hot and sunny you may need to water twice. If it is overcast and cool, one time during the day will be sufficient. The key is to keep a close watch on that ½" of soil. Check it in both a shady area and sunny area. Your lawn will need 1" of water per week from you or from rain. Not all parts of your lawn will need the same frequency of water.
- After the grass is 2" tall – As the grass roots reach deeper into the soil you slowly switch to deeper, less frequent applications of water. Your lawn will need 1" of water per week. This is best to be done 2 times per week at ½" each time. Mark out an area that a sprinkler covers and put a cup in the area. When the cup has ½" water in it then it's time to move the sprinkler. This is a great way to tell when you have ½" water down.
- After the first mowing – Continue with the schedule of 1" over week. It's best if you can water early in the morning, once per week. Follow this schedule until early fall when we get consistent rainfall.

2. Fertilization –

Even though we fertilized the lawn as part of the installation, the new seedlings will need to be fed on a regular basis. We recommend Milorganite in hot weather. Four weeks after installation it is important to fertilize the new lawn with balanced granular fertilizer. This fertilizer must also contain a slow timed-release fertilizer, so the tender seedling is not damaged. Know the size of your new lawn, so you can purchase the proper amount of fertilizer. Fertilization will encourage the new seedlings to spread and fill the open areas.

Fertilization should be repeated at monthly intervals for the first 2 months. Then it should be done every 6-8 weeks until November 15th. Apply fertilizer when the grass blades are dry, and the soil is firm. Remember to water regularly and deeply after fertilization.

3. **Weed Control** – You will have weeds in your new lawn. Anytime topsoil is disturbed through grading, weed seeds are exposed to the sunlight and will germinate along with the new grass seed. The initial mowing of the lawn should kill many of the weeds, as some weeds will not tolerate mowing. To reduce the remainder of the weeds, you should apply a broadleaf weed killer. This should be applied either in May or in September depending on when your lawn was installed, but do not weed kill until at least 8-10 weeks after installation and after you have mowed the lawn 3 times.
4. **Growth** – Grass plants grow in width as well as height. Your new lawn will look sparse to begin with but will thicken as the grass plants spread. Remember, only 5 grass plants per square foot are necessary for a lush, beautiful lawn.
5. **Mowing** – Proper mowing is essential for a nice-looking lawn; poor mowing practices cause more lawn problems than anything else.
 - **When** – As easy as it sounds: mow whenever the lawn needs it. In spring, this could be every 3rd day; in summer, it might be every 2 weeks. Your first mowing should occur after the grass reaches 4” tall.
 - **Mowing Height** – 3-4” leaving the grass long will reduce water loss, increase vapor and crowd out weeds. Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at one time.
 - **Grass Clippings** – If you only cut off 1/3 of the grass blades, you do not need to remove the clippings. They do not add to the thatch problem; they can help recycle nutrients back into the lawn.
 - **Key Points to Remember** –
 - Don’t cut more than 1/3 of the grass blade at one time.
 - Mow high – 3”.
 - Keep your mower sharp.
 - If possible, don’t mow when it’s hot and dry or during mid-day.

If you do your part in the maintenance of your new lawn, you will have a beautiful, healthy lawn for many years to come. If you have questions at any time, don’t hesitate to call LAMMSCAPES!

Contact us with any landscape questions, as well as help with the maintenance of your yard.

LANDSCAPE • GARDEN & DESIGN



LAMMSCAPES!

Guidelines for Your Fruit Tree Care

Fruit trees can be one of the most satisfying plants in your yard. Pleasures of sight, smell and taste come to you with your own living fruit factory! Yields of 6 bushels of apples are not uncommon on a 10-year-old tree. The shade, form and texture of your tree will also add to your landscape. In the spring, you will be able to enjoy another advantage of the fruit tree when the beauty and fragrance of the blossoms emerge. Because the fruit trees we can grow here – apples, pears, plums, cherries and peaches – ripen at different times, every summer will be a continual harvest of success.

Fruit trees, in general, prefer a sunny spot with rich, well-drained soil. Soils with some clay are acceptable but avoid heavy clay areas that are wet for extended periods of time. Low areas where frost collect are almost less desirable for these spring bloomers. A sloping area facing east or west is best.

Space your new trees so they will just touch when fully grown. For example, space dwarf apples 12 feet apart, since they will get 12 feet wide by maturity.

As vigorous as most fruit trees are, they still need to receive some special care. Top yields that are most nearly free from blemish are only achieved with pest control, pruning and fertilizing.

APPLES

Apples are the most popular of all fruit trees and are available in many varieties and potential sizes. Our semi – dwarf trees get only about 15 to 18 feet tall and 12 feet wide.

The semi-dwarf tree will be begging to bear the 2nd and 3rd year after planting, which is 1 or 2 years before a standard. Additionally, the little trees are easier to pick and spray and take up less yard space.

Apples need another variety of apple to pollinate its flowers to develop fruit. Fortunately, they are often pollinated well by other apples in the neighborhood, including flowering crabapple trees.

Pruning should be completed each spring in March. This is done to increase the ratio of roots to top growth and to get better air movement through the crown. This care will increase fruit size and quality. You should also remember to thin the number of fruit developing along each branch. In early June, pluck off tiny fruit leaving one apple every 6” along a branch.

Both insects and diseases can cause reduced yields with apple trees. A preventative spray program is suggested with apples, as well as with any fruit tree. This program will help prevent most insect and fungus problems.

PLUMS

Plums are also a very popular fruit tree. Although they vary in height, plum trees are usually 15 to 20 feet tall at maturity. Space 12 to 15 feet apart in a sunny, well drained area.

Plums tend to be short lived because of their susceptibility to several insects and diseases. For example, Black Knot fungus produces strange, black growths along the twigs that greatly slows growth and can kill the tree. Prune plums in March, removing twigs infected with Black Knot and then burning them. Pruning tools should be wiped or dipped in alcohol between cuts. Plums do not need fruit thinning.

CHERRIES

Cherries are a versatile plant to add to your fruit tree collection. Wisconsin conditions limit us mainly to the sour cherries that are enjoyable in desserts, juice, pies and other baked goods.

You can find a spot in almost any yard for the small cherry trees. Generally, cherry trees will grow to be about 15 feet by 10 feet wide. The natural dwarf, North Star, matures at only 10 feet tall and 6 or 8 feet wide.

Sour cherries are self-fruitful and therefore you only need one tree for adequate pollination. Cherries need no fruit thinning. Each summer, cover the whole tree with a Ross Garden Net to keep the birds from harvesting your crop. Cherry trees are susceptible to the same insects and diseases as the plum tree. Additionally, we recommend a preventative spray program for your trees. Follow the directions for pruning plum, especially regarding Black Knot.

PEARS

The pears wide appeal lies in its versatility. Pears are great for canning, eating fresh, sauce and wine. They are also the most consistent and prolific bearers of all our fruit trees. Pears are available in dwarf forms, which get only 15 feet tall and wide and standard forms, which can reach 25 feet tall and wide.

Insects and disease pests are not major problems with the pears. However, a stronger, better fruiting tree can be achieved with a modest spray program.

GENERAL TIPS:

- Prune all fruit trees in March.
- Fertilize annually in April with a balanced, granular product specifically recommended for fruit trees. Organic fertilizer and compost are recommended.
- Avoid mower damage by keeping a 3-foot circle of mulch around the trunks.
- Watch for bad infestations of insects and control them.
- All fruit trees need bark protection from rodents and rabbits especially when young – encircle each trunk with a tree protector each fall. Check weekly in the winter for rabbit activity, especially during deep snow when rabbits can reach unprotected branches.

LANDSCAPE • GARDEN & DESIGN

2708 Sherman Road Jackson, WI 53037 Phone: (262) 677-3010 Fax: (262) 677-0505 www.lammscape.com