THE FIELD LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Field created this guide to answer questions about caring for your new landscape and show you how to keep maintenance to a minimum and enjoy the process. Maintaining your yard, plantings and hardscapes doesn't take a huge amount of time, but it does take some knowledge and experience. Doing the right thing at the right time with the right tool can make all the difference.

This manual covers four basic subjects:

TOOLS - Useful tools for landscape maintenance

PLANT AND HARDSCAPE WARRANTIES - How Field stands behind our landscapes

ESTABLISHING NEW LANDSCAPES - The establishment period of a new landscape is the first 1-2 years and has the most intense work to get everything headed in the right direction.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE TASKS - What do you need to do and when to do it after a landscape is established.

USEFUL TOOLS FOR LANDSCAPE MAINENANCE

TOOLS

Having the right tool on hand, sharp and easily accessible can be the difference between a quick 20 minutes and a frustrating hour. Be prepared with the right hose and hose reel before your landscape is completed. We recommend these tools to make your yard tasks easier:

a. Edging Shovel

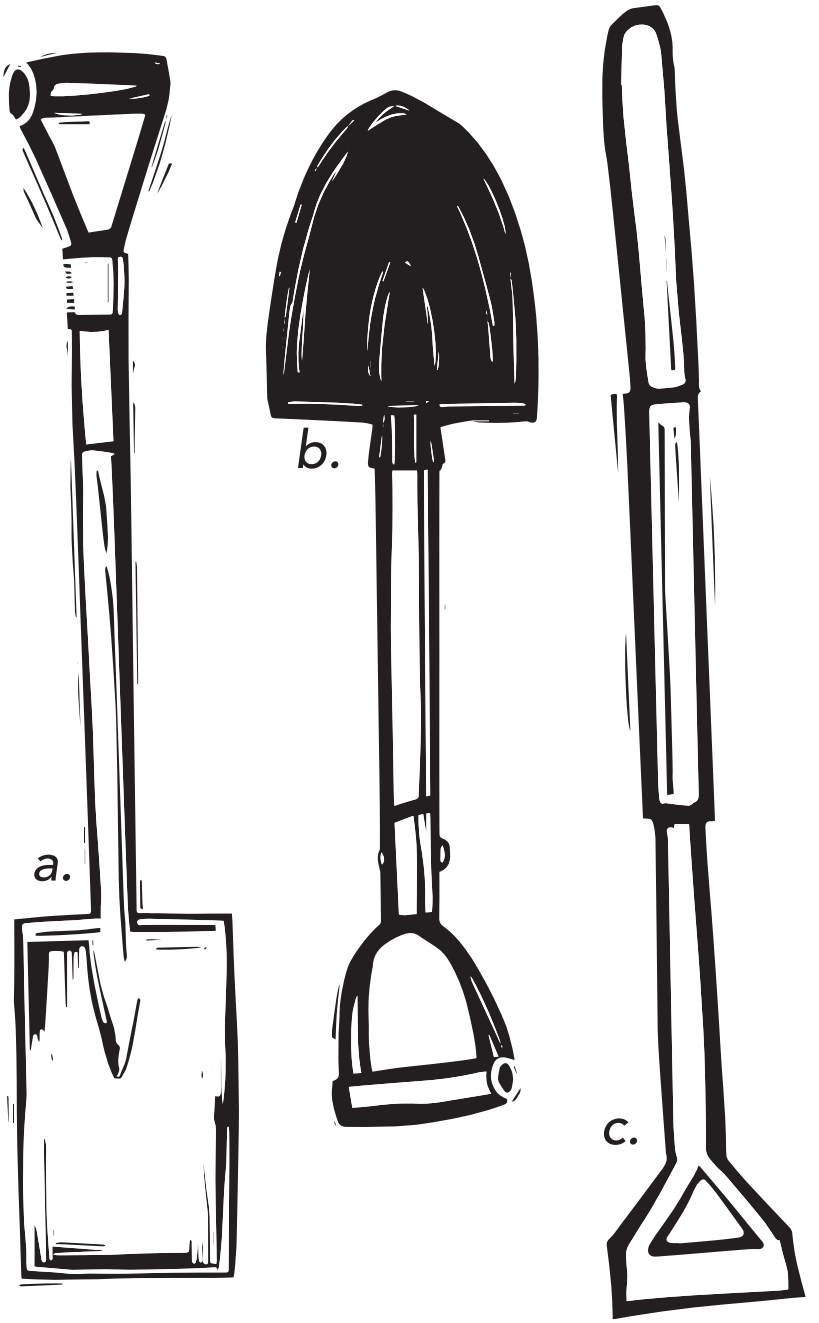
This shovel is good at, you guessed it, cutting an edge. Whether you have an "English Garden Edge" or any other type of edge, there comes a time about once a year when it is really visually satisfying to clean up your edge. Just like a good haircut, this can give your yard a nice refresh.

b. Round Shovel

If you need to do any transplanting, dividing of plants, new planting or digging out of larger weeds, this is the shovel. These tasks should be yearly or less.

c. Dutch Hoe

If you went the "soil conditioner" route vs. the hardwood mulch route (more on this later), this tool makes weeding a breeze. It weeds with both the forward and backward motion and you can do it standing straight up, so you can get through a bed of 20' x 5' in just minutes. Get the weeds when they are young, and you can leave them to dry out. You may want to pick up and dispose of large weeds.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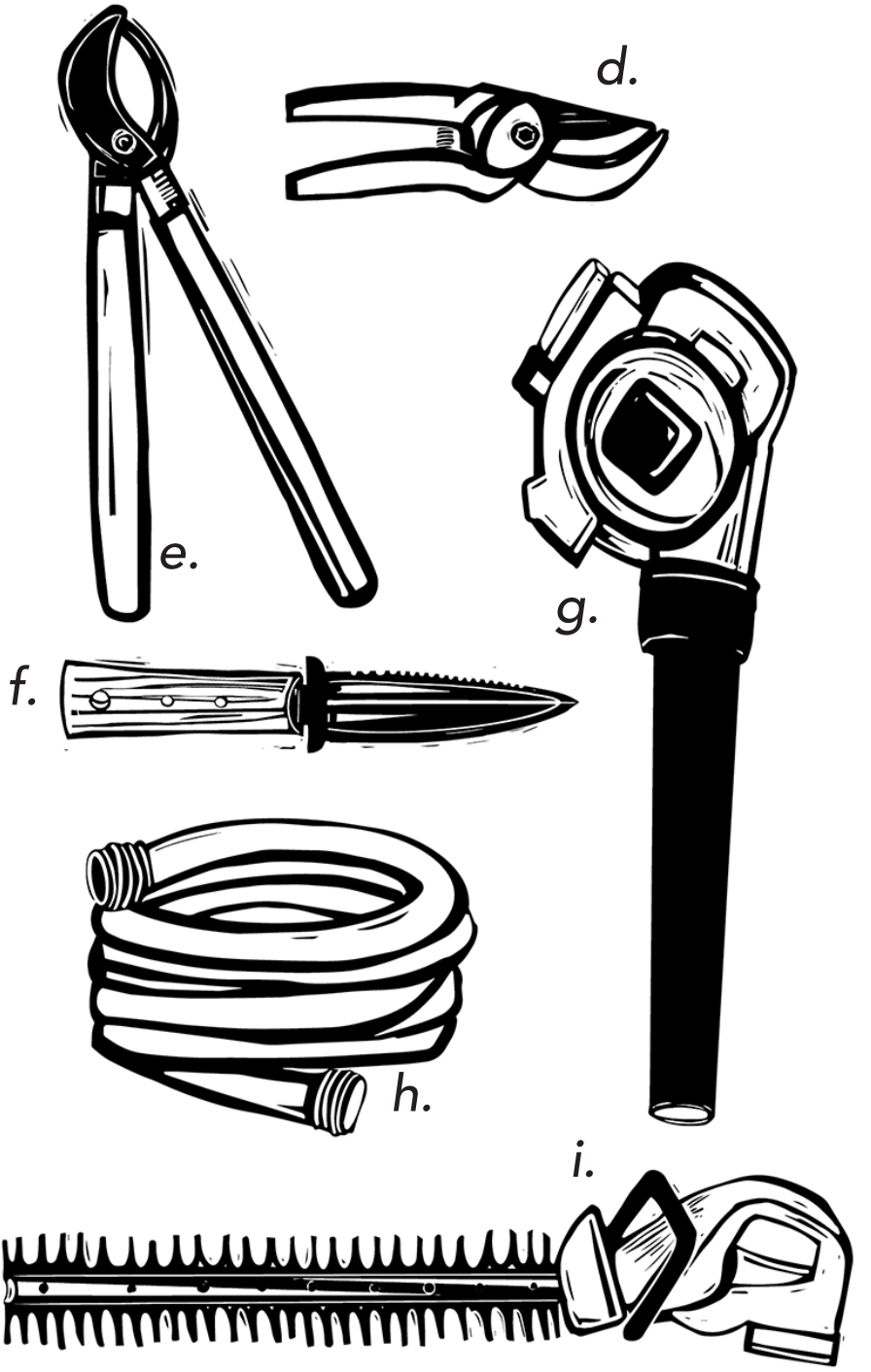
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e.
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d. Hand Pruner

Use to cut twigs of less than ¾" and perennials.

e. Lopper

A larger version of the hand pruner, this is used to cut small branches – ¾" and above.

f. Hori Hori Knife

A sharp trowel for weeding and planting of small plants.

g. Blower

Clean off sidewalks after you mow, clean out gravel beds, or clean off your patio. A blower helps make sure you don't get build-up in the corners of hard surfaces that leads to weeds.

h. Hose

We have found the Flexzilla hose to be the best brand – it doesn't kink, is not overly heavy, and is easy to wind up. We recommend having a hose reel or other place to put your hose so it stays neat, tidy, and out of the way.

i. Hedge Trimmer

This is the ideal tool for cutting back your perennial plants in the fall or spring.

PLANT & HARDSCAPE WARRANTIES

WARRANTIES & PLEDGE

PLANT WARRANTY

All plants purchased through Field are backed by a **one-year warranty**, with the following exceptions:

- Marginally hardy varieties (as noted on your final invoice)
- Transplanted plants (Existing plants that were moved)
- Sod and seed*

Note: The warranty is contingent upon proper watering and care throughout the coverage period. It does not include damage or loss caused by animal browsing. For protection tips, please refer to the Critter Control section or contact us directly with questions.

Seeded lawns require weed treatment and overseeding during the first year. We recommend partnering with a lawn care company to ensure successful establishment.

Replacement Process

- For questions about plant health, warranty claims, or replacements, email: **designers@fieldoutdoorspaces.com**
- Replacement perennials will be ordered and arranged for site drop-off or pick-up at our shop.
- Trees and shrubs will be purchased and installed by Field. Please note: if machine access is no longer available, large trees may be replaced with smaller specimens.

Craftsmanship Pledge

We are proud of our work and stand behind every installation. Our team's expertise ensures high-quality results that we are confident will last. While our Hardscape Warranty officially covers five years, our commitment to your satisfaction extends for decades. If you experience an issue after the warranty period, please reach out. We want you to be satisfied with your landscape for the long term.

Hardscape Warranty

Patios, walkways, and walls are covered by a five-year warranty. During this period, Field will repair, replace, or adjust installed hardscape items that show degradation resulting from the original craftsmanship. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from:

- Natural disasters or flooding.
- Property settling.
- Accidents or physical damage (e.g., from automobiles, snow blowers, or fallen trees).

Please refer to the original manufacturer's warranty for coverage specific to materials.

Repair Process

- For questions about hardscape issues or concerns, email: **rob@fieldoutdoorspaces.com**
- Please include a description of the issue and photos if possible.

ESTABLISHING A NEW LANDSCAPE

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Establishment

When you first install a landscape or even just a grouping of new plants, you enter into the most labor- and time-intensive part of landscape maintenance called "Establishment."

This is when plants are most vulnerable to not surviving and there are two critical elements you must provide during this time: watering and critter control.

WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS

The biggest time requirement with a new landscape is the initial watering. After your plants are established they should need very little supplemental water, other than in drought periods. If possible, water in the morning while temps are cooler. This reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation.

Watering is described below for each type of planting. All watering starts with frequent watering and becomes less frequent over time. Always let the ground dry out between waterings. When there is water in the soil there isn't oxygen, so letting the soil dry out between watering gives your plants the oxygen they need.

Trees

Follow these guidelines for the first 2-3 years after installation.

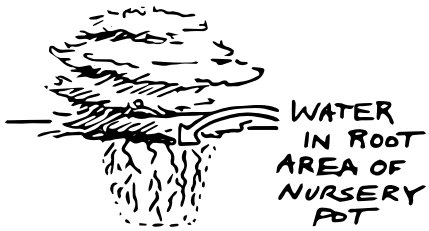
Fill a Tree Gator Bag once a week OR run a hose on a trickle at the base of the tree for 1 hour, 1 time per week. Continue weekly watering up until the ground begins to freeze in the fall (usually mid-late Nov).

Shrubs

If hand watering, water each shrub for a count of 40 seconds.
Week 1: Every day
Week 2: Every other day.
Week 3: Every 3rd day.
Week 4 and beyond: Every 5-7 days depending on temperature and natural rainfall.

Special Considerations: Evergreens

The rootballs of evergreens tend to be tight and dense during the first few years after planting. In order to make sure water gets to the correct area of the rootball, make sure to place the hose at the base of the trunk



Perennials

If hand watering, water each perennial for a count of 10 seconds.
Week 1: Every day
Week 2: Every other day.
Week 3: Every 3rd day.
Week 4 and beyond: Every 5-7 days depending on temperature and natural rainfall.

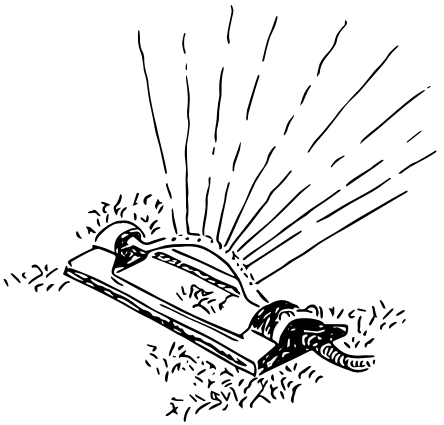
Seed

For seed establishment, a timer-based system is required. Reach out to us if you have questions about this type of system.

After installation, keep seed moist by watering briefly (10-15 min. by sprinkler), three times a day. Avoid puddling or washing away seed which can lead to patchy growth.

As seedlings begin to grow, gradually reduce frequency and water more deeply. Every other day is a good guideline at this stage. Once seedlings become taller than 3", mow to allow sunlight to reach the smaller seedlings.

As the grass fills in and is established (4-8 wks), you can continue to mow regularly if you have traditional turf grass.



If you have a "no-mow" blend, you can back off mowing to 1-2 times per year if desired.

Sod

One inch of water per week is recommended through at least 3-5 years.

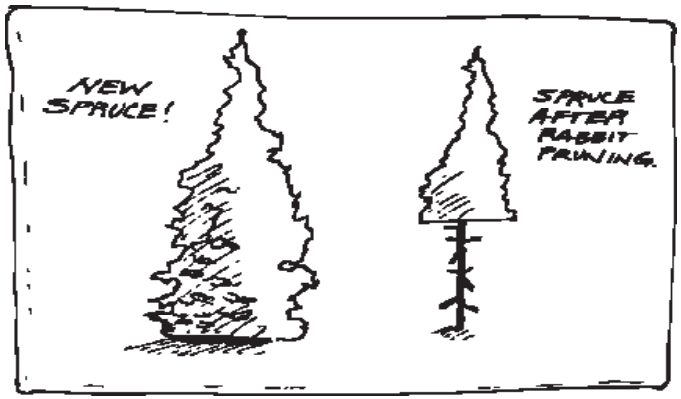
Establishment: Water twice daily for 15 minutes, until the sod has rooted in (doesn't pull up if tugged on lightly - approximately 2 weeks). Provide enough water to ensure that the soil is moist just below the sod layer.

Rooting: Once rooting has started (the sod doesn't come up when you pull on it) reduce frequency but water deeper by watering once daily for 35-45 minutes.

Established: Once sod has been mowed 2-4 times, provide 1" of water (including rain) per week.
(Approximately 45 min with a sprinkler.) Monitor and apply supplemental water as needed, especially during hot dry periods (even several years post- installation).

CRITTER CONTROL & PLANT PROTECTION

We understand how frustrating it can be to step outside and find your newly installed garden has become a buffet for the local wildlife. While it is difficult to make your landscape fully "critter-proof," there are several ways to discourage rabbits and deer from eating their way through your new landscape.



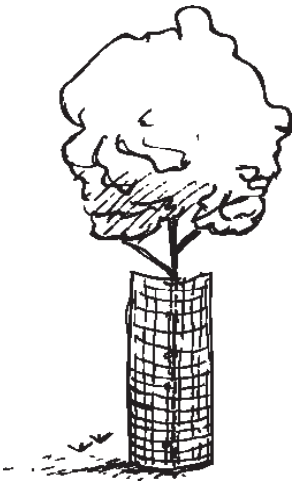
Repellents – Set Boundaries

Animal repellents help protect your plants without being harmful to critters. They use scents and tastes that the animals prefer to avoid, helping to create a boundary they won't want to cross. Repellents work best if they are applied BEFORE animals establish their eating habits, so make sure to start applying as soon as your landscape is installed. Reapply after a heavy rain or watering, and you

may find it necessary to rotate between different types – switching scents helps prevent critters from adapting to any one formula. Consider applying close to dawn and dusk, as those are the times animals are most active. And be extra vigilant during the spring and late fall. Natural food sources are more scarce, making your plants that much more tempting!

A few repellents we've had success with:

- Rabbit Scram or Deer Scram
- Liquid Fence Sprays Concentrates
- Bonide "Repels All" or "GO Away" Repellents



Fencing Solutions

Sometimes, a physical barrier is the most effective way to keep animals out, and when used with repellents, it can be a great deterrent.

The first 3-5 years are the most critical in protecting your plants. As they become

established, they are more able to withstand some light critter browsing. However, you should always have an eye tuned to what's happening in your landscape and be ready to step in when needed.

For Rabbits:

- Use wire chicken wire fencing at least 3' high – fence off entire areas of the garden or you can focus on specific affected plants.
- Garden Cloches are also a great option for protecting individual plants.

For Deer:

- Use wire fencing that is at least 6' tall – if fencing off trees and shrubs, make sure it is set back far enough to keep the deer from reaching over the fence and nibbling the plant.
- Cover the trunks of trees with tree tubing or fencing to protect from deer antler rubbing in the fall.

ON-GOING MAINTENANCE OF AN ESTABLISHED LANDSCAPE

ENJOYING THE PROCESS

Here are some tricks to enjoy the process of working in your yard rather than seeing it as sweaty drudgery. A comment we often hear from our clients is that they find they get to know their neighbors better when they spend more time in their yards!

It's Exercise

Doing 20 minutes of light garden work is good for your body. Focus on good body position, don't do any specific task for more than 10 minutes, stand up straight and take breaks often, and work from a crouch or one-knee position.

Notice Things

There is a lot going on in the garden and it changes at different times of day and throughout the year. Give yourself time to take in what is happening around you. What insects are on your plants? What flowers are blooming? What are the smells?

Do Something Else at the Same Time

Bring out a glass of sun tea. Get the smoker going. Start the barbeque. Watch the kids ride their bikes. Listen to your favorite music or podcast.

Other ways to enjoy the process:

- Wear a hat.
- Wear gloves.
- Share the tasks with your partner or kids.
- Have the right tools easily accessible.
- Take advantage of morning or evening when the sun is low and it is cooler.

MULCHING

Although we always recommend filling weed-prone spots with plantings, you may still have areas that need mulch.

A top dressing of mulch can do a few helpful things:

Decreases germination

If you top dress in May you cover weed seeds at the specific time they are ready to germinate and can significantly decrease germination.

Looks clean, uniform and fresh

When you cut your edge and have a single color spread under your plants, everything pops and looks orderly.

Aids in moisture retention

Especially in the heat of the summer, mulch can help keep your plant roots cool.

There are two general mulch strategies we recommend: a hardwood mulch strategy or a soil conditioner strategy.

Hardwood Mulch Strategy

More work, but longer lasting

We use a double-shredded hardwood bark mulch for this strategy. The strands knit together so it stays put even on slopes. The wood chunks are small enough to break down but don't break down too fast. This needs to be renewed every couple years.The downsides of hardwood mulch are that it is expensive - $175/yard to contract install – and once you do it you have to keep it up. Hardwood mulch makes planting more plants a little difficult and makes hoeing (which is way faster than troweling) nearly impossible.

Soil Conditioner Top Dressing

Easier weeding, easier to add filler plants

We use Green Loon Soil Conditioner from Gertens. It is a custom blend of coniferous bark fines and aged compost. It's great for breaking up heavy clay soils and increasing water holidng capacity in lean soils, and adds beneficial organic matter. This leads to easily workable, "fluffy" soil, making weed removal a snap.

WEEDING

A well-designed landscape with the right size beds, densely planted areas, and other groundcovers like gravel can minimize weeds. However, this is nature, and there will be weeds from time to time. Accepting this and getting them at the right time with the right tool is essential. The mulching strategy you choose will determine your weeding approach.

Keep in mind that most weeds are from wind-borne seeds. Only specific plants move around underground.

Weeding a Soil Conditioner Bed

If you chose a soil conditioner strategy your weeding may be a little easier. Once a week from May through early July, spend a total of 20 minutes weeding. After this it should go down to half of that. Use the Dutch Hoe and potentially the edging shovel at bed edges and sidewalks. Doing it more often will take less time and effort, because you will get the weeds when they are small. If you find yourself needing to weed the same area twice, we recommend filling it with a "desirable plant" instead. Where there is one plant, there

can't be another! As long as you fill it with a plant of the right size, there are many options. Swing by your local garden center and find something great or contact us! We offer a plant sale in June as part of our Kerplantz program. Learn more at **kerplantz.com**.

Weeding a Wood Mulch Bed

If you chose a Hardwood Mulch strategy, you will most likely use your hori hori or trowel to weed. Get weeds as soon as they appear, when they are smaller and pull up easily.

SAWFLY LARVAE
JAPANESE BEETLE

INSECTS

For the most part insects are benign or even beneficial, and many are downright fascinating. Seeing a huge moth, caterpillar or beetle can send you running to your phone to figure out what it is. Have you seen a Dobson fly? How about a Swallowtail butterfly? Don't assume that because you are seeing an insect on a leaf that it is damaging the plant. It is important to take a broader look at your landscape and try to identify what you are seeing. Most plants can tolerate a fair amount of insect feeding. Remember, when you allow insects to graze in your landscape, you are "paying it forward" up the food chain. With that said, there are some insects that can do significant damage fast and your landscape will benefit from intervention.

Special Considerations:

Sawfly Larvae

In late June pine trees often get sawfly larvae. This is a very destructive insect that lasts for 4-5 weeks and can decimate the needles of pines. If the plant is small you can wash the creepy crawlers off with a garden hose. Larger infestations may require help from a professional arborist.

Japanese Beetle

This is also a destructive foliage eater. Similar to Sawfly it only lasts for a specific time and can be knocked off and drowned in soapy water if infestation is small. Larger installations may require a consultation with an arborist.

PERENNIAL WEEDS

These are flowering weeds that produce by both seed and the spread of roots/tubers. This vegetative reproduction means even a small piece of root or stem can reproduce the entire plant, making perennial weeds difficult to control. Often times, selective spot spraying of an herbicide is the best method of control. Perennial weeds can be devastating to a new garden. It is critical to be on the look out for them and remove them as soon as they appear.

Commonly found perennial weeds:

- Asian Bell Flower
- Thistle
- Dodder

FUNGI, MOLDS, SLIME-MOLDS & MORE

Similar to insects, fungi and other low-stage life forms can be fascinating and often ephemeral. You will likely see one or more of these pop up in the garden from time to time (often during wet seasons) and are not of major concern.

ASIAN BELL FLOWER
THISTLE
DODDER

SPRING CLEANUPS

Cutback last season's foliage. It's important to cut perennials and grasses at least 6—8" above the ground to preserve the habitat of bees & insects that haven't yet emerged from their winter nap. Perennial plants wake up at different rates so you may not see new growth emerging right away. If you haven't seen new growth by early June then replacement may be necessary.

Remove any winter protection and put tree bags on trees if you use them for watering.

A light layer of leaves can be left on the garden beds as they will decompose, returning organic matter to the garden. However wet, matted down chunks should be removed.

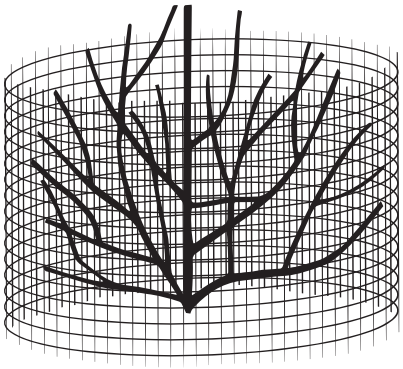
Remember, the garden doesn't have to be spotless. Debris is good for the garden – and the environment!

FALL CLEANUPS

Cutting down your perennials can leave your garden looking fresh and clean in the fall. However, from an ecological standpoint, we recommend leaving up as much plant material as possible, especially any grasses and large perennials that offer winter interest. Many of these plants provide important habitat for friendly insects, such as bees, who over-winter in the ground or in the hollow stems of larger perennials.

Removing leaves from the lawn is an important fall task. Leaves can be raked and removed, or better yet, mulched with a lawn mower. If you choose to mulch the leaves, mow over repeatedly to break them down into fine particles. Those particles will filter between the grass blades and break down as additional nutrients for the lawn. It is ok to leave some leaves in the garden beds as it provides an additional layer of mulch for both plants and insects.

WINTER PROTECTION



Winter means reduced food sources for animals. Plants that retain an above ground presence (trees and shrubs) suddenly become a tempting meal. Protect vulnerable trees & shrubs from animal damage over the winter: Put tree tubes or tree wrap around young tree trunks and chicken wire caging around multi-stemmed trees and shrubs. Remember to remove winter protection during your spring clean up.

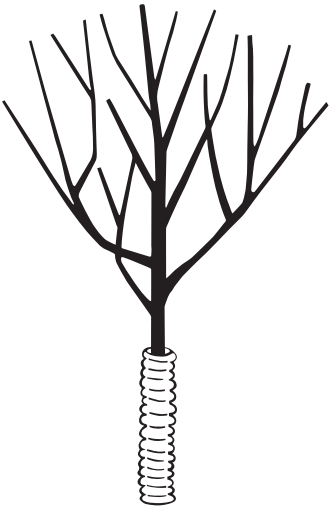
With most trees and shrubs, this is something you may only need to do for the first few years, but it may be something you continue for your more vulnerable or “high value” trees and shrubs.

***Sun Protection**

Tree wrap and tubes can also be beneficial in protecting light colored, smooth bark trees from sunscald. Sunscald can occur when intense winter sun warms up the outer bark of the tree causing the fluids in the tree to begin to run (move up or down in the tree). When the temps drop overnight the fluids freeze and expand causing a crack in the bark. That crack could provide an entry point for disease and insects.

***Winter Burn on Evergreens**

Winter burn occurs on evergreens because the cold winter wind can remove moisture from needles, causing them to dry out.



Because the soil is frozen, they can't replace that moisture. The best way to protect your evergreens is to continue to water them deeply up to the date the ground freezes so they can store up ample moisture for the winter.

PRUNING

Reasons for Pruning

We prune to promote plant health and appearance, to maintain an intended purpose in the landscape, and to protect people and property. Pruning can be a pretty in-depth topic but here are some quick guidelines to keep in mind.

- Remove dead or dying branches
- Remove branches that cross, rub together, or grow back towards the center of the tree.
- Prune to control size and shape. In most cases, natural form is best. When plants are pruned correctly, it's hard to tell that they've been pruned.
- Avoid shearing into tight forms (like balls or squares) unless that is the intended purpose of the shrub.
- Remove unwanted branches and suckers from the base.
- Generally, late season dormant pruning is recommended for most trees. Most shrubs can be pruned throughout the season with the exception of spring flowering shrubs such as lilacs and forsythia, which should be pruned immediately after flowering. If you aren't sure, do a quick online search for additional info.

See more information from the U of MN Extension:
https://extension.umn.edu/planting and growing guides/pruning trees and shrubs

It is never a bad idea to have a relationship with an arborist.

Your trees are an investment in your property and with proper care can stand the test of time. An arborist can help with general questions, advise on long term tree care, and assist if needed with storm damage. Reach out to us at **designers@fieldoutdoorspaces** if you would like a referral.

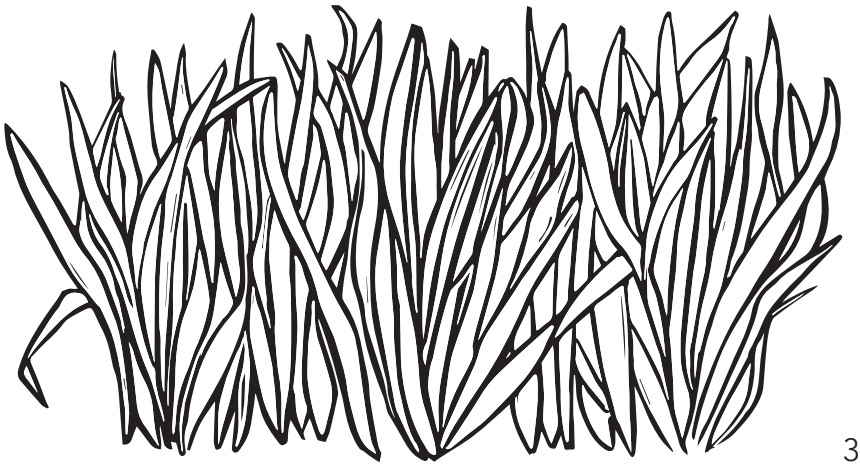
TURF MAINTENANCE

Field installs a variety of different "lawns" from traditional Kentucky Bluegrass sod to seeded fescue blends (No Mow) and pollinator lawns. Here is what we recommend to keep your lawn looking great.

Bluegrass Lawn

As with all lawns, getting the lawn established with a robust root system is important. If you can establish a healthy vigorous lawn, there won't be as many weeds.

Aerate and overseed every fall (late August through mid-September) for the first three years with a sun-shade seed mix. This can be done yourself or by a lawn vendor. We recommend purchasing seed from a high-quality source like Gertens or Bachmans. Make sure the seed includes sun and shade types and includes low maintenance seed types. Ask the knowledgeable staff at these garden centers for recommendations. Mow-in or remove all the leaves on the



grass before winter. Water infrequently and deeply.

"No Mow" Fescue or Bee Lawn

These types of lawns are developed over time. To achieve the most sustainable and dynamic lawn, we recommend yearly filling and substitutions. If there are areas that die out because of excess sun/heat, we recommend planting suitable low growing perennials like prunella, sesleria, prairie smoke, prairie phlox, or pussy toes. This will start to develop a bee-friendly pollinator lawn.

FALL:

Fall is when a no-mow lawn needs the most maintenance. This type of lawn requires a mowing and over-seeding every fall, around early September.

Remove all leaves from the grass before winter. Leaves left on the lawn can cause dead areas, prone to weed invasion.

SPRING:

Do not rake the lawn in the spring. This is hard on sensitive fescue grass roots.

Open dirt areas will encourage weeds, so if there are disturbed areas or dead patches, seed or fill with groundcover plants in the spring.

Water infrequently and deeply. (See "Watering Guidelines" section for specific instructions.)

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS BASED ON LANDSCAPE MATURITY:

Year 2–3

You've planted and established your foundational plants and still have some spaces to fill. This is a perfect opportunity to add in a few plants that are a bit more aggressive and will begin to fill in around those foundational plants. This is when we love to add in a few natives and more groundcovers around the edges. Or maybe you have your eye on a plant that requires a little more TLC? This is your time to go for it. You've got the foundation, now have fun!

Year 8–10

Every plant has a different life span, and it is not uncommon for plants in the garden to begin to die out around the 8 to 10 year mark. You may begin to see less vigorous growth, reduced blooms, or in the case of some grasses, bare spots or thick fibrous crowns near the center of the plant. Or maybe your once-small trees are now casting some shade where it once was sunny. This is a completely normal evolution and an opportunity to reinvigorate the garden. You can simply replace these foundational plants as needed or take the opportunity to try something new.

RESOURCES

Home Sown Gardens
651-434-7349
info@HomeSownGardens.com
www.homesowngardens.com

Rainbow Lawncare
952-922-3810
info@rainbowlanwcare.com
www.rainbowlawncare.com

Vineland Tree Care
612-872-0205
trees@vinelandtree.com
www.vinelandtree.com

Mangold Horticulture
952-999-1633
www.mhort.com

We want to help you get the most joy from your landscape. If you have questions about plants or follow up care, don't hesitate to let us know. Email questions to **ann@fieldoutdoorspaces.**

STRAWBERRY
LEMONADE
TEA
SUNSHINE
2 Tbs.
favorite
sweetner
24 oz
WATER
3 teabags
1 LEMON SLICED
4-6
STRAWBERRIES - HALVED
ICE
STIR
SEAL container & place in
direct sunlight for 1-2 hours.
SERVE TEA over ICE.
For STRONGER tea let INFUSE
IN REFRIDGERATOR OVERNIGHT.