



# Landscaping Care Guide

How to Maintain Your New Trees, Shrubs and Sod



# Newly Sodded Lawn Maintenance

## Watering

Newly installed sod should be thoroughly saturated (soaked so it is squishy) immediately after installation. It is virtually impossible to over water sod during the first week after installation. The second week it should be kept constantly moist.

## Going Forward

Lay a frisbee upside down within range of your sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill up. That is how long you should run the sprinkler over the week, if there is no rain. Your soil can only absorb so much water, so it is best to divide the sprinkler time up into several smaller time periods throughout the week.

(City of Calgary Lawn & Garden Care)

## Traffic & Mowing

1. All traffic across the new sod should be kept to a minimum because it can separate seams and disturbs the underlying grade.
2. The first mowing can usually occur 3 weeks after installation or when the sod reaches a height of 3"-3.5" tall.
3. Adjust mower height to approximately 2.5" and be sure blades are sharp.
4. Do not water the day before mowing as this will mat the new sod.
5. Repeat mowing procedures once a week during the growing season. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade per mowing.

## Fertilizer

1. Be sure to fertilize your lawn. Do not fertilize for the 4 weeks after planting. After that time, you may maintain with lawn fertilizer every 6 weeks.
2. When considering fertilizers, choose a slow-release variety. This will feed your plants slowly over time instead of the short burst of nutrition that quick release fertilizer provides.

# Tree & Shrub Maintenance

## Watering

1. At all times, trees and shrubs should have moisture. Roots must never be dry.
2. Once the ground is dry 4" below the surface, it is time to water again.
3. Holiday care: Please be sure to water before holidays and arrange for a neighbour maintain the schedule during your absence. Trees should be watered 1-2 times a month but it is suggested that watering is done weekly during extended hot spells, which usually fall during July and August.

## Tree Well Maintenance

1. Maintain tree well around the tree and shrub bed. Keep free of debris.
2. Keep dirt level in the tree well; do not allow it to pile up around the trunk.

## Fertilizing

1. Trees and shrubs require fertilizer to promote growth and resistance from disease and insects. Check with your local home improvement store for products and guidelines. Do not over fertilize.
2. Slow acting fertilizers can be applied at anytime throughout the season.
3. Mineral uptake is the greatest throughout Many and July when the trees and shrubs are producing most of their growth.

## Winterizing

1. Before the ground freezes it is advisable to increase watering of the tree and shrubs so that the rootball is solidly watered in when the ground is completely frozen.
2. During periods of long Chinooks, trees and shrubs may require more watering to keep the rootball frozen and to prevent damage to the root system.

*\* Please note that these are guidelines provided by Mountains Edge Construction Ltd. No warranty provided on plant material.*



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