

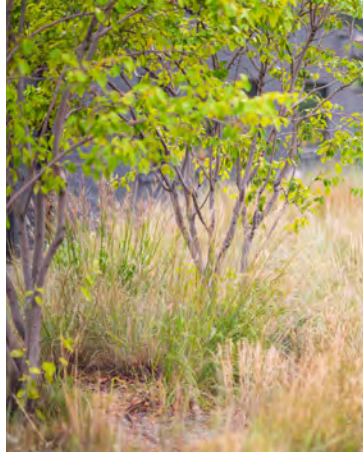
Plant Care Guide

Watering



Perennial Plantings

- Watering with a sprinkler is fine. Just make sure the sprinkler covers the entire planting, or plan to move it around.
- At a minimum, water 1" per week, especially if it is hot and there is no rain.
- Use a rain gauge or 1" deep container, like a tuna can, to place under the sprinkler so you know when you've reached 1".
- If your plants look wilted and soil is dry, you may need to water for longer!



Trees & Shrubs

- Do not water with a sprinkler.
- Place hose at the base of the tree or shrub and turn water on low so it will soak in.
- Water for 5 minutes per plant, 2-3 times per week at first.
- After a month, do this weekly.
- Continue to water into the late fall for the first growing season.

Establishment Period

New plants must have supplemental water to get established, even if they are native plants that will eventually be very drought tolerant. By giving your new plants extra attention and water during the establishment period, which is the first 2 growing seasons, they will be healthier and stonger later. It is better to water for longer, less-frequently than to water a little bit every day! This will encourage plant roots to grow deeper in the soil.

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Seasonal Landcare



Weeding

It is much easier to pull weeds when they are only a few inches tall than when they grow to 6 feet! Check out your new garden frequently and hand pull small weeds when the soil is moist (its easier!) especially small tree seedlings. At a minimum, pull weeds by Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day. Pull any weeds that are about to go to seed and spread around your garden, like the thistle shown below.



Raingarden Maintenance

The plants in raingardens can be maintained just like other planting, but some areas of the raingarden may need special attention. If your raingarden has a rock swale, like the one on the left, use a leaf blower to keep it clear and pull small weeds that make their way into the rocks. If there are big open spaces of mulch, fill them in so you don't have a welcome mat for weeds. Removing weeds and invasive species helps by eliminating competition for space from your new plants.

Pruning

We prefer to leave plants standing all winter since they provide overwintering habitat for pollinators. In the spring, once the soil reaches 50 degrees (when you see dandelions blooming) most pollinators are awake and you can trim back the dead portions of perennials to 12-18" high. Hollow stemmed perennials provide nesting habitat for native bees!

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Lawn Establishment



Seed

A new seeded lawn, be it fescue, bee lawn or other turf grass species, all need consistent moisture to get established. Spring and fall are the best time for seeding.

Water newly seeded lawns daily with a sprinkler for 5 minutes in the morning and early evening for the first 2 weeks, then reduce to every 2-3 days thereafter for next month. Continue to monitor rainfall and the lawn and provide supplemental water if needed.



Sod

If you have new sod, it will need a lot of water to get established. Water the sod until it is soaked through (this can take more than an hour with a sprinkler) every day for the first month, then reduce to every 2-3 days thereafter for the first growing season. Do not mow the new sod for 3 months! Make sure you can not pull up the sod before you mow and then set your mover to the highest level that it will go.

Bee Lawns

Bee lawns are usually a combination of fine fescues, Dutch white clover, self heal and creeping thyme and can be established similarly to seeded turf grass.

Bee Lawns and fescue lawns can be mowed but it isn't required. That's a personal aesthetic preference. If you do mow, raise your mower to the highest level possible.

Never use herbicide or other chemicals on bee lawns! This could harm the flowers and the pollinators who visit them.

Maintenance & Watering Log:

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