

How do I care for my new ornamental plants?

Your new plants were installed with humus and growth stimulants. You should know that some plants may become "stressed" after being planted. Some trees (such as Dogwood or Birch) commonly lose their leaves. Most plants will recover and re-leaf. In general, perennials require 1 year to acclimate themselves to their new surroundings and begin growing vigorously. Shrubs require 2 years and trees typically take 3 years to adjust to their new site. After this time, you will begin to notice significant new growth and your landscape developing as you imagined.

Please insure your plants are watered adequately. We suggest new plants be watered regularly for the first year, giving all plants a good deep drink of water. See our Watering Guide for Your New Lawn and Landscape for complete details.

Most new plantings will not need to be pruned for the first year or two. They need to establish themselves and begin producing new growth to fill in and to develop their natural growth habit for the area they are in.

After the first year, you will need to fertilize your shrubs, groundcovers, perennials and trees. We suggest you fertilize in the fall with a 10-10-10 or 16-16-16 plant fertilizer. Spread the fertilizer around the drip line of the plant using a cup. Do not dump the fertilizer on the plant. Following proper watering, fertilizing your plants is probably one of the most important things you can do to help your plants thrive. Please follow the instructions on the bag of fertilizer.

Pests on plants can take the form of molds, fungi, insects, and rodents. All need to be treated in different ways. Please inspect your plants weekly, looking for any changes in color, chewed leaves, spots or growths. You may need to inspect the underside of the leaves. Remember that insects have a right to be on our plants (many are beneficial). We only need to treat the pest when they threaten the health of the plant or become a nuisance to you. We recommend an IPM approach to pest management to protect both your landscape and the environment. You should contact Horizon immediately if you notice any abnormalities.

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