



# The Growing Scene, Inc.

**A Landscape Design and Construction Company**  
www.thegrowingscene.com

## **Plant Care Instructions**

### **Watering**

Plants need to be watered when the soil around the base of the plant feels dry. Check your plants daily, especially in hot, sunny weather. To check the plants, put your fingers in the dirt, right around the base of the plant. Move away any mulch and fabric if necessary. If the soil feels hot and/or dry, water immediately. If the soil feels moist, check again within the next two days, depending on the weather. When possible, water in the morning.

Occasional, deep, thorough soakings are much more effective than frequent surface watering. Plants, typically, do not need to be watered every day; what they do need is a lot of water when you do water them. As a professor of mine once said “When you water, water the heck out of the plant!” To water shrubs, lay the end of a hose at the base of the shrub and allow a medium stream of water to run on it for about 15 minutes. The same method applies to watering trees; only trees should be watered longer, perhaps 20 - 30 minutes. A soaker hose is also an excellent tool for watering flowerbeds; simply wind the hose throughout the flowers and shrubs.

Watering is particularly critical during a plant’s first year. In successive years, as the plants roots go down deeper into the soil, they may be watered less frequently.

### **Fertilizing**

Miracle-Gro is the standard multi-purpose fertilizer for all the plants in your landscape. We recommend fertilizing the plants 5-6 times during the growing season. Miracle Gro is a granular fertilizer that should be diluted with water before application. Carefully follow package directions for frequency and concentration of application for each plant. Generally you should stop fertilizing perennial flowers and shrubs around August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Miracid is a soil-acidifier plant food that should be used for all acid-loving plants, such as evergreens, azaleas, rhododendrons and hydrangea. These plants do better when fertilized with Miracid.

For easier application of Miracle-Gro or Miracid, use the Miracle-Gro No-Clog-2 feeder that attaches on the end of your hose.

\*All Miracle -Gro related products are available online through our website [www.thegrowingscene.com](http://www.thegrowingscene.com)

### **Pruning**

Pruning is done for both aesthetic and rejuvenation purposes. The amount of pruning that is done is up to you. Some people prefer the more formal look; others like to let the plants grow more naturally.

Shrubs that blossom from buds that grow on the previous season’s growth should be pruned after they have flowered and before the new buds begin to form. Shrubs that blossom from buds that grow on the current season’s growth should be pruned in early spring before the new leaves come out. If you’re not sure when to prune, the rule of thumb is to prune after the plant is done flowering. Cut out any dead or damaged branches, and then if desired, prune to adjust the size and shape.

Some plants such as Potentillas benefit from rejuvenation pruning. Potentillas should be cut to about 6” from the ground every 2nd or 3rd year.

## **Staking**

Our company's policy is to not stake a tree when it is initially planted. If the tree shifts, please call us. We can come back and either straighten it and/or stake it. Staking a tree that does not need it can do more harm than good. Movement of the trunk helps strengthen it by thickening it and giving it taper from bottom to top. Trunk movement also stimulates root growth. So although staked trees might grow taller faster than their unstaked counterparts, their trunks are weaker and their root systems are less developed. If we do come back and take a tree, there will be an additional charge.

## **Pest Control**

Rabbits and deer can cause extensive damage to trees and flowerbeds; we recommend a product called Repels-All. It provides an odor and taste barrier to a variety of animals and each application lasts 2-3 months. It is available in liquid and granular forms. Blood meal is also a great product. It comes in a powder form and can be sprinkled around flowers or shrubs. It is a natural product that makes the rabbits think that there is a predator in the area. Rabbits have caused tens of thousands of dollars' worth of damage in Del Webb and the surrounding areas.

## **Weed Control**

Weeds are not only unsightly, but they take valuable nutrients away from trees, flowers, and shrubs. Weeds can be controlled through chemical and/or physical methods including pulling or hoeing, but if you are open to using chemicals, Preen and Round-Up are two suggestions. Both are very effective, however, they work through different methods; Preen is a pre-emergent herbicide. This means that it kills weeds before they come out of the ground. You may want to sprinkle granules of Preen over your beds when we are done planting.

Round-Up is a broad-spectrum herbicide. When applied to the leaves of the plant, it is absorbed through the leaves and down to the root system, where it kills the plant systematically. It has the potential to kill whatever it is sprayed on, so make sure to spray very selectively. The hotter the weather, the more effective the product. As with all chemicals there are certain precautions. Make sure to read all label directions thoroughly.

## **Guarantee**

When we plant shrubs, trees, and evergreens, they are guaranteed 100% for one year from time of planting. Perennial flowers, roses and groundcovers are guaranteed 100% through October 31<sup>st</sup> (i. e. one growing season). They are guaranteed at 50% of the purchase price through one the one year anniversary of the original planting. We will replace any tree, shrub, evergreen, rose, perennial flower or groundcover ONCE that has died within the guarantee time period, providing the plant has been properly cared for. Only one replacement of each plant will be made within this time. We will not replace plants that have been damaged/killed by rodents, wildlife, or insects; damaged by lawn mowers (or by other mechanical means), drowning, drought, (watering is the responsibility of the homeowner) or natural disasters; damaged by misuse of chemicals or lawn spraying services. While we will attempt to use the finest growers and suppliers as sources for these plants, please remember that the care these plants receive after they leave our premises is critical. The most common causes for failure are improper watering. A member of our sales staff is always available for any questions regarding the health of your plants. If at any time you want us to look at your site, or the plants, please give me a call. Transplanted materials are not warranted. If you choose to do the planting yourself, the shrubs, trees, and evergreens are guaranteed 50% for one year. Call us if you have any questions! We look forward to working with you to keep your yard beautiful.