



**65 Years of History You can Trust!**

Sit Back and Enjoy the View!

## **CARE SHEET: HOW TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN YOUR NEW LANDSCAPE**

Thank you for choosing to work with *Ganshert Nursery & Landscapes LLC*.

We are happy to provide this pertinent information on how to properly maintain your landscape.

### **PLANTINGS:**

**Watering:** Roots of newly planted shrubs and trees should not dry out completely for extended periods of time, particularly during the first growing season. If Mother Nature does not provide 1" of rain per week, then we suggest you water per the following instructions. Watering should be provided until November. The best method of watering is to run the hose at a trickle for 20-30 minutes 2-3 times per week (equal to 1" of water per week). (We install rain barrels, too.) Soil, however, should not be soggy. It is best to allow soil to dry out between waterings. Clay soils hold water better than sandy soil and therefore require less water (the majority of our soils are clay). Also, remember to deep water all evergreens before the ground freezes for winter. This serves as a protective measure to insulate the roots so that they don't freeze as quickly as they would have had they not been given this final watering.

**Pruning:** The only pruning the plants might require the first year or two is a shortening of the more vigorous branches to keep a symmetrical appearance. Thereafter, start a program of maintenance pruning. Many trees can be pruned throughout the year; some, such as maple, walnut and birch, should be pruned during late Spring/early Summer to prevent loss of sap. Oaks should only be pruned during dormancy to prevent occurrence of Oak Wilt disease, usually fatal. Pines and evergreens have specific requirements. Call *Ganshert's* to help you with your pruning!

**Fertilizer:** If needed, newly installed shrubs and trees were fertilized with time-release fertilizer at the time of planting. It will not be necessary to fertilize again for 2-3 seasons. All plants were deep-watered when installed (this method is described above under "Watering").

## LAWNS:

**General:** Keep newly established lawns evenly moist but not so wet that the soil washes away. A new lawn should be watered when the soil begins to dry out but before the grass actually wilts. This could mean sprinkling several times per day.

**Sod:** After installation, sod needs to be watered thoroughly to a depth of 3-4". After this initial watering, water daily for the first 4 weeks making sure that the sod and the upper 1-2" of soil underneath are continuously moist. Days that are sunny and very windy may require watering twice a day. After 4 weeks, apply a total of 1" of water per week. Watering in the morning/early afternoon is best. Once the root system is established, regular watering is not required. If you choose to water your established lawn, water in mornings only. Sod can be mowed when roots have penetrated the soil (this usually takes 2 weeks and can be ascertained when a corner of the sod cannot be easily lifted). Set the mower at 2.5-3".

**Seed:** Seed should be watered and *not allowed to dry out* until it reaches a height of 3-4". This will require 1-2 waterings per day during the warmer months. It takes about two weeks for blue grass seed in the grass mix to *begin* to germinate; another three to six weeks before complete germination at which time it should be mowed. Mowers should be set no lower than 2½-3". Straw mulch will break down into the soil after the first year and does not need to be removed. Weeds often become a problem two to three weeks after sod has been laid. They are carried by the wind and in the topsoil. Most of these are annual weeds and will therefore die out with the first winter if a healthy lawn is maintained. Fertilizer can be used after the first mowing. For weeds, herbicides can be applied after the fourth mowing—*Ortho Weed-Be- Gone* liquid will work for weeds in new grass. Make sure to follow directions for fertilizing and using herbicides, or give us a call.



Also, we are happy to provide you with specific plant care info, plant ID, or ideas for improving your property. We greatly appreciate referrals to your friends and family.

**Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to have been of service to you...**

**Serving the Madison Area for over 65 Years!**