

C.B. Conlin Landscapes Care Information

LAWN CARE

WATERING SEEDED LAWNS

Start watering **IMMEDIATELY** after seeding. Seed should be kept moist. Avoid over watering, which promotes puddles and erosion. No herbicide (weed killer) should be used until seed is established (usually after 3-4 mowings). When new seed is established, around three to six weeks after seeding follow mowing procedures for newly sodded areas.

WATERING NEW SOD

Start watering **IMMEDIATELY** after the sod is laid. For the first 7 to 10 days, the sod should be so wet that you cannot walk on it without sinking in. This usually means watering every day. After that, give the sod an inch of water every 2 days for the next 2 weeks. To measure an inch, place a coffee can on the lawn in the path of the sprinkler. Once your lawn is established it is generally better to water in the morning hours approximately 1" per week. No herbicide (weed killer) should be used until sod is established (usually after 3-4 mowings). **By the 10th day or so, allow the sod to dry out enough to mow it.** This is usually 2-3 days.

MOWING NEW LAWNS

By the 10th day or so, allow the sod to dry out enough to mow it. Make sure your mower is in good mechanical condition and that the blade is sharp. Set your mower to the highest setting and mow the lawn carefully. The frequency of mowing depends on the weather. Mow the lawn before clippings are longer than one inch. In the spring and fall, mowing may have to be done twice a week due to rapid growth. Mowing heights should be 2-2 ½ inches in spring and fall, and 2 ½ to 3 inches during summer months.

LAWN FERTILIZATION

Following initial fertilization, (included at installation) wait four weeks and fertilize again. Repeat every six weeks for the rest of the growing season. Before applying any chemicals, read and follow all label instructions. We **highly** recommend organic treatments of lawn provided by Nutri-Max Lawn Care (630) 455-1200. These treatments can help prevent conditions that cause lawn diseases. They also provide lawn insect (grub) control.

CORE AERIFICATION

This should be done in spring and fall every year. If you use an organic lawn fert co. (see above under lawn fert) you may not need aerification.

NOTE: These are all general maintenance instructions, which depend upon site and environmental conditions. Always follow manufacturer's recommendations when using herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers; C.B. Conlin Landscapes accepts no responsibility for personal injury or property damage resulting from the use of these recommendations.

WATERING

WATERING TREES

Newly planted trees should be watered immediately, apply water directly to area on and around root ball. All trees should be watered deep, by watering around the ball about 4-5 minutes. This method is best for good root formation, rather than short frequent irrigation. Using a lawn irrigation sprinkler system does not provide deep root watering and is not recommended. For the first 2 weeks – 1 to 2 times per week and then every 7-14 days for the next 6-8 weeks then as needed. If in question, dig down the side approximately 12"- 15" to see if the area is wet, if so wait a few days. Tree root enhancer is the best fertilizer for newly installed trees. (See Plant fertilization)

WATERING SHRUBS

Water same as for trees, but for approximately 1- 2 minutes per shrub twice a week depending upon weather conditions.

NOTE: Newly planted trees and shrubs are more often lost from **over watering** than under watering. After initial watering, trees should be watered to the *touch*. Pull back the mulch and insert water meter, or your finger 4" into the soil, if the soil is moist, don't water, if it is dry to the touch, then water.

DO NOT depend on rainfall or sprinklers to water newly planted trees or shrubs. This type of moisture may run off or evaporate from the soil surface and not penetrate the root zone.

PERENNIALS, FLOWERS, AND GOUNDCOVERS

Keep new plants moist for at least two to three weeks to obtain proper root establishment.

NOTE: Newly established beds that are kept weed free establish faster and require less maintenance in the future.

GENERAL PLANT CARE

MULCHING

Since grass roots compete for your tree or shrub's water and nutrient needs, it is advisable to exclude grass from the plant trunk or stem. Applying a 3" layer of shredded hardwood bark mulch over the surface of the soil will retain moisture for the plant and prevent mower damage to the trunk. Don't pile mulch up the stems or trunks of shrubs or trees. Don't plant flowers around the base of the tree.

PLANT FERTILIZATION

Do not fertilize at planting time; this would be best done after your plant has established for 6 months. When fertilizing, a quarter cup of garden fertilizer (8-8-8 or 10-10-10) may be evenly distributed to the soil around the soil surface around the plant. Deep root fertilization is another good way to fertilize and water your trees and shrubs. The **best** way is to use organic root enhancers with deep root fertilization from Bartlett Tree experts, mdskeet@Bartlett.com This treatment is highly recommended for rapid root establishment and much faster maturing rate. They also provide tree care maintenance like spraying for insects and diseases (the most common being Crabapple Scab which should be sprayed on most crabapples in early spring, 2-3 times).

PLANT BED MAINTENANCE

We recommend that newly installed plant beds be mulched with some type of material. If a weed mat barrier was not installed, then a pre-emergent herbicide should be applied on top of the mulch for weed control. When weeds begin to emerge, apply an herbicide to weeds (such as Roundup™) and follow with application of more pre-emergent herbicide. **DO NOT** apply the herbicide to trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, groundcover, or turf grass. Be careful not to spray herbicide on windy days and control the spray so that it does not mist or drift onto other areas.

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PRUNING

Pruning is the selective removal of unwanted plant parts and is necessary in a cultivated landscape for many reasons.

Deciduous Shrubs: Shrubs flowering before June 15th should be pruned 2 weeks after flowering. Summer flowering varieties should be pruned in the early spring.

Evergreen Shrubs: June or July shearing and renewal pruning.

Evergreen Trees: These usually do not need to be pruned. If needed, prune in June and do not remove more than one-half of the growth.

Formal Hedges: Prune several times during the season.

PRUNING CAN IMPROVE A PLANT'S HEALTH BY:

- Eliminating dead, damaged or diseased wood.
- Removing weak branches that may break easily in storms.
- Removing crossing branches that rub and create open wounds which become easy entryways for insects and disease organisms.
- Taking off water sprouts and suckers that rob the plant of water and nutrients.
- Thinning the crown to allow more light penetration and improve air circulation needed to inhibit some diseases.
- Stimulating the plant to produce new growth that is usually healthier and more vigorous.
- Correcting previous improper pruning or shearing.

PRUNING CAN ENHANCE A PLANT'S APPEARANCE BY:

- Eliminating branches that destroy the desired form (most often symmetrical shapes are desirable but asymmetrical shapes are appropriate for some specimens, especially if the landscape has an oriental theme).
- Creating prolific flower show and fruit display (healthier plants produce more flowers and fruit).

PRUNING CAN IMPROVE THE PLANT'S FUNCTION BY:

- Eliminating branches that are blocking important views or impeding pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- Removing growth that is in conflict with buildings, utilities or other site elements.

YOUR SHRUBBERY CAN BE SAVED.

Rather than removing or replacing old, overgrown and disfigured shrubs, try reclaiming them as valuable plants. Many shrubs can be pruned back to health through renovative or rejuvenative pruning during the dormant season.

Renovation is the removal of approximately 1/3 of the oldest, largest stems during one pruning cycle. The objective is that after three years, properly pruned plants will be virtually all new growth again.

Rejuvenation is the removal of all stems to a height of two to four inches above the ground. In spring, the entire plant will essentially be new.

Most shrubs with multiple stems arising from the ground (for example, spirea, privet, red twig dogwood, forsythia, and arrowwood viburnum) can be pruned using either of these methods. Do not use these methods on plants that have one to three stems (burkwood viburnum, burning bush, and rhododendrons).

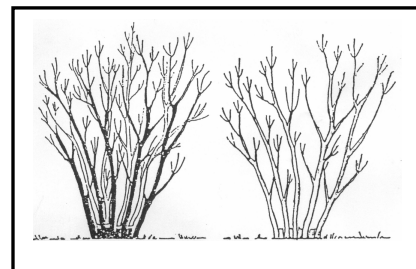
Renovation is less stressful on plants and should be considered as the routine method for maintaining plant size and health.

When plants are disfigured or severely overgrown with an abundance of dead wood, rejuvenation will be the most productive pruning method. Once plants are rejuvenated, annual pruning should be renovative. Continual rejuvenation will weaken plants.

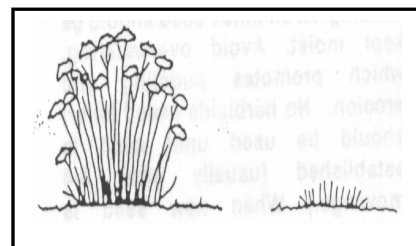
Frequency of dormant pruning will depend on the plant species. Fast growing plants may need to be pruned annually while slower growing types may only need to be pruned every three to four years. No matter what the frequency, pruning should be a routinely scheduled function to keep plants healthy. It should not be done only as a reaction to decline in health and appearance.

REASONS FOR DORMANT PRUNING

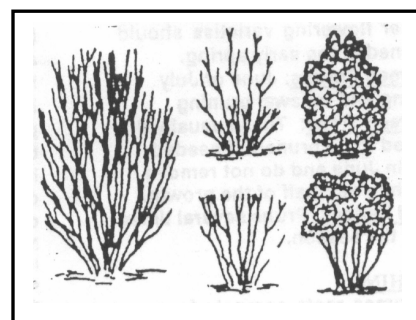
1. The branches and overall structure are easily viewed because there are no leaves.
2. The plant is not actively growing so less stress is placed on the plant.
3. Diseases are not active and less likely to spread.
4. Results of pruning are less noticeable and will be less objectionable when viewed.



Renovative Pruning



Rejuvenative Pruning



When a multiple trunk, cane-type shrub needs pruning (left), remove one third of the canes to the ground and cut one third half-way to the ground to encourage new growth throughout the plant (upper figures).

Pruning only the tops will result in new growth only at the top (lower figures).

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