



After Care Instructions

PERENNIAL PLANTING

Recently planted or transplanted perennial gardens have special requirements. Until the plants adapt to the site and have had a chance to develop new roots, they will be vulnerable to insects and disease along with abiotic problems such as wind.

Please read what applies to your situation and don't hesitate to call your horticultural representative for assistance.

Watering

The success of your new perennial garden depends upon proper watering for the first full year after installation. This watering guide is basic and meant to give you options that suit the site of each plant. For example, a very well drained sandy site needs the maximum dose of water recommended. Conversely, a normally wet area with slow drainage may only need the minimum recommended.

1" to 2" per week of water, applied with a sprinkler, is recommended. During hot, dry weather, as seen in July through late August, additional water is necessary. Significant rain may mean eliminating a watering session in that week. Water the plantings in the morning, if it is possible, or water in the afternoon.

It is also recommended that you get a *rain gauge* and place it in the garden among your new plants. With a gauge you can monitor total weekly water amounts. Remember to empty the gauge each week on the same day. Run the water and time the sprinkler long enough to collect 1" in the rain gauge. This will give you the amount of time needed to attain 1". This helps to make watering easier on a timed basis.

- Water on a fixed schedule twice a week. Never assume that because it has rained that you do not need to water. Check your rain gauge and see how much water has fallen and then fulfill the required inches of water to complete half of your weekly needs.
- Use your fingers to assess the moisture level of your soil. Dig down 3" or so and check moisture levels below the ground surface. The soil should never be bone dry.
- Do not stop watering perennial gardens in the fall until the plants start to show signs of going to sleep, such as yellowing and dropping leaves. Please continue to water until the ground freezes late into fall.



After Care Instructions

PERENNIAL PLANTING

Compost

While bark mulch is appropriate for trees and shrubs, we do not use this type of mulch for perennial gardens, as it depletes the soil of nitrogen and moisture. When we install gardens, we add a thin layer of compost to the disturbed soil around the base of the plants, unless other arrangements were made (such as ground cover). These composted areas should be maintained by weeding, and sometimes the addition of new compost will be needed. It is important not to use more than 1" – 2" of compost.

Fertilization

When we plant new gardens, we by default alter the existing soil. We try to avoid the 'potted-plant effect' by making a wide planting hole to encourage new root development and by keeping the soil very nearly the same as the native soil with added organic matter.

Our recommendations are:

- Refrain from fertilization the first year.
- After a year of establishment, fertilization can contribute to the healthy development of the plant. Use a low analysis fertilizer like Pro-Gro 5-3-4 organic general purpose fertilizer, following the recommended application rates as stated on the bag.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Woodstock 802.457.5100 • Concord 603.225.9600 • Enfield 603.448.4800
Meredith 603.279.7400 • New London 603.526.4500

Website & Blog chippersinc.com

T r e e • T u r f • G a r d e n • L a n d • F o r e s t

W e ' r e A l l A b o u t Y o u r L i f e O u t s i d e TM