



## Caring for New Shrubs and Perennials

### Watering

- New Shrubs and Perennials should be watered 2 to 3 times per week depending on rainfall.
- The best way to tell if watering is needed is to feel the soil. If the soil does not feel damp you should water.
- Shrubs and perennials should be watered at a slow to medium rate with a watering wand or soft spray directed at the base. Small perennials and shrubs should be watered for 20-25 seconds. Medium shrubs should be watered for 30-45 seconds. Large shrubs and small trees should be watered for 1 minute each.
  - \*\*\*A sprinkler can be used as an alternative to this but most do not evenly water the plants and use more water than necessary. If you use this method, make sure to feel the soil to see that the water has actually got to the plant roots.

### Pruning

- Pruning shrubs should be timed based on a plant's growth cycle. Shrubs can be very specific depending on flowering characteristics as to when they need to be pruned. Please call if you are unsure when to prune.
- Many perennials can be deadheaded after flowering to improve plant growth and in some cases promote rebloom. This process involves cutting off the old flowers down to the first bud below them.

### Fertilizing

- A slow release fertilizer can help promote better growth and flowering for many shrubs. Products such as Osmocote or Miracle Gro can be applied near the base of each plant.
- As a general rule do not fertilize between early August and mid October, plants need that time to harden off their new growth and prepare for winter.
- Spring fertilizing helps get plants off to a good start for the year, most of your efforts of spring fertilizing can be seen in increased growth and flowering.
- Fall fertilizing helps the plants root system grow and gets the plant ready for winter.