

# The Growing Scene, Inc

Garden Center-Landscaping-Farmstand

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## Plant Care Instructions

### Self-Watering Flower



### Watering

This cartoon is funny, but we all know that plants can't really water themselves. They rely on us to provide the moisture they need. 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. Whenever 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, but the roots won't grow down into the soil unless that's where the moisture is. Frequent surface watering will encourage a shallow root system, therefore, the surface of the soil (and the roots) will dry out more quickly.

## 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.

Miracid is a soil-acidifier plant food that should be used for all acid-loving plants, such as evergreens, azaleas, rhododendrons and hydrangea. Evergreens, rhododendrons and hydrangea need Miracid fertilizer to perform their best.

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 at **The Growing Scene, Inc.**

## 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 about 6" from the ground every 2nd or 3rd year. Spireas are another shrub that benefits from this practice.

## Pest Control

Rabbits and deer can cause extensive damage to trees and flowerbeds; we recommend a product called Deer Off. It provides an odor and taste barrier to a variety of animals without harming foods in the garden which we eat, and each application lasts 2-3 months. 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. We will replace any tree, shrub, or evergreen ONCE that have died within one year from the date of installation, 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. When we plant shrubs, trees, and evergreens, they are guaranteed 100% for one year from date of planting. Certain plants are excluded from this guarantee, they include: Perennials, Roses, Butterfly Bush, Rhododendrons/Azaleas and Boxwood. If you choose to do the planting yourself, the shrubs, trees, and evergreens are guaranteed 50% for one year. 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.

Call us if you have any questions! We look forward to working with you to keep your yard looking beautiful.