



BATES

LANDSCAPING

484-887-8678 | www.bateslandscaping.net

Aftercare Guide

01

Watering

Proper Watering to Help Establish Healthy Roots and Promote Drought Tolerance





Watering

Overall

- Proper Watering is key for healthy plant material. Using the technique of slow, deep watering will promote healthy roots that can withstand dry months after establishment.
- Bates Landscaping will add watering equipment, along with a timer or gator bags to help with establishment. It is very important not to move or adjust the equipment.
- Here we will provide extra information in case the equipment shorts out at any time.



When: Watering frequency depends on the time of year, the weather, and the plant.



Watering

Weeks 1-3

- **Spring Planting** : water about 1x per day or every other day
- **Summer Planting** : water 1x per day
- **Fall Planting** : water about 3x per week

If rain is in the forecast allow nature to water the plants for you. If a gator bag or watering bag was installed with a tree, move the bag to allow for nature to water your plant.





Watering

Weeks Thereafter:

- Please consult with your Bates Landscaping representative BEFORE adjusting the timing frequency, or the need for removing it. Depending on the timing of the installation, will affect the timeline to keep the sprinklers active for, in order to establish / germinate properly.





How

- **Low and Slow:**
 - Pressure should be kept minimal to optimise root health.
 - While the pressure is slow, each plant should be watered for about 1-3 minutes.
- **Watering :** around the root collar and extending to outside the drip line is best to promote fibrous roots.

Water Equipment Guidelines

- **DO NOT** move or adjust the timer or the placement of the equipment.
 - This should not be moved for mowing or coverage. If any movement or adjusting has occurred, warranty cannot be provided
 - If equipment is not functioning properly, please call us.
- **What is a Gator Bag?**
 - *A portable slow release watering bag designed to effectively and efficiently irrigate a newly planted tree or shrub.*
 - The gator bag should be filled 3-4x per week depending on the time of year, more often if the temperature is warmer.
 - Remove the gator bag to the side, if the forecast calls for rain to allow for natural rainfall to water the material.



Watering

Things to Keep in Mind

- Watering first thing in the morning is best. This will help prevent water evaporation.
- A plant typically shows the same sign for water stress, as compared to, needing water. It is very important to keep soil moist, but allow the soil to dry out in-between waterings.
- If water pressure is not available, it is Client's responsibility to hand water to ensure establishment.



02

Warranty

Bates Landscaping provides a general warranty on all landscaping work. The following are the specific warranties and exclusions on each project.





Warranty

Plant Material

➤ Lifetime Warranty:

- Bates Landscaping can provide a Lifetime Warranty on all plants, if a full-service maintenance plan is in place. Please speak to your Representative about details on a custom package

➤ Trees + Shrubs:

- All trees and shrubs will be warrantied for 6-Month pending all directions and maintenance are followed properly.

➤ Perennials:

- All perennials are warrantied for 1-growing season. During establishment perennials may dieback earlier than normal and typically re-establish well the following year. Perennials will not be replaced if they die back early.

➤ Annuals:

- No warranty will be given for annual flowers.

➤ Deer Damage:

- No warranty can be given for deer damage. Bates Landscaping can recommend deer protection, if needed.



Warranty

SOD

- Sod will be covered under warranty pending proper watering for 2-weeks after installation.
- Pet and animal damage, improper mowing, and natural disaster are not covered under warranty





Warranty

Not Covered & Exclusions

- Transplants will not be covered under warranty due to the risk of moving the material and root damage
- Warranty refund will not be given if another contractor replaces the plant material
- If another contractor is providing maintenance or plant health care to the new plant material, the warranty will become void.
- If watering equipment is moved by Client or Lawn Care provider, the warranty will become void
- If timer is removed or tampered with warranty will become void
- Any improper care to plant material will void warranty
- Deer Damage or other animal damage is not covered under warranty for replacement



03

Proper Care

*Proper Maintenance is Key For The
Long-Term Success of Your Newly Installed
Landscape*





Proper Care

Spring Cleanup

- This should be completed March or April to remove any leaf build up from the winter months. At this time well-established ornamental grass will be cut down to promote new growth.



The most important maintenance task you can provide to your landscape is to have a professional maintain it.

Proper Care

Application of Mulch

- This should be completed March-May to replenish the previous year's mulch. Mulch is not only attractive, but provides an active layer to help decrease the amount of weeds. Mulch also helps with soil moisture.





Proper Care

Pruning

- After a tree or shrub is well-established, usually after the first year, light pruning can begin on plants. Hand pruning should be kept to; removing deadwood and light reduction to control size. When pruning, no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of live-tissue should be removed.





Proper Care

Fall Cleanups

- Cleaning up leaves and branches are the most important maintenance task to complete in the Fall. Build up of leaves on the lawn and in planting beds can harbor mold, and create disease to the plants and lawn. Leaves can be taken off the property or blown into a compost bin to be reused.



Bates Landscaping can provide all the maintenance your newly installed landscape will need for its long-term health and success.

Fertilizing

- A slow-release fertilizer will be applied at the time of planting to give the plant proper nutrients throughout establishment. After the first year, active plant health care is very important. More information depending on the plant can be provided to Client upon request.





Proper Care

Perennial Cutback

- After a perennial is well-established, usually after the first year, cut back can be completed. This is typically completed in the Fall months (depending on the perennial) to prepare for new growth in the Spring and help the plant overwinter. Perennials such as Liriope, are cut back in the Spring.





Proper Care

Hire a Professional

- Once you've invested in the installation of your new landscape, the next important step is to perform yearly maintenance. This task is the portion that most homeowners fail at. The best thing you can do is set it and forget it. Opt to have Bates Landscaping schedule accordingly to complete these tasks in a timely manner.



The most important maintenance task you can provide to your landscape is to have a professional maintain it.



Proper Care

SOD

➤ Mowing Sod

- Proper mowing height is crucial for maintaining healthy sod.
- Newly installed sod should get to a height of at least 5" before the first cut.
- When mowing for the first time, the deck of the mower should be at the highest height possible. This will help prevent scalping.

➤ Watering

- Newly installed sod should be watered for about the first 2-weeks after installation, or once the sod is fully rooted.

➤ Long Term Care

- The most important thing you can do for your lawn is hire a professional to maintain it.
- Proper timing for pre-emergents, fertilizers, broadleaf weed control, and winterizers are crucial.
- A program that has at least 4-6 yearly visits will maintain the overall quality of your lawn.
- Having a professional complete dethatching, seeding, and fall aeration will help promote the overall health of your lawn.

04

Establishment & Transplanting

*Proper Establishment is Crucial in the
Long-Term Development and Overall Health
of Your Plant Material*





Transplant Shock

- This is classified as a tree or shrub that is planted in a new area and during establishment experiences stress. This is highly common as the tree is trying to develop their root system in a new location. During the nursery holding process, trees and shrubs are dug and sometimes more than ½ of the roots are removed for easy handling.



Symptoms or signs can be seen as **Wilting** or **Curling** of leaves



Establishment & Transplanting

Establishment

- Proper watering (shown above) and overall care (shown above) will help promote proper establishment.





Transplanting

- This is classified as moving a mature or established tree or shrub from one location to the other. Transplanted material cannot be covered under warranty due to the stress on the plants. Proper watering should be completed to promote root development.



Expectations on Establishment & Guidelines

- **Sod** : Establishment within 2-weeks, rooted
 - *First Mowing Sod should be slightly pulled up to ensure it has rooted properly. If it's well rooted and does not pull up (normally after 2-3 weeks), you can cut.*
 - *The deck for the mower should be set at the highest setting and mowed once, or ideally cut with a push mower*
- **Seed** : Germination within 2-4 weeks, comes in patchy
 - *First Mowing Seed should be cut for the first time once it's thick and well-established, or after 3-4 weeks.*
 - *The deck for the mower should be set at the highest setting and mowed once, or ideally cut with a push mower*

- **Trees, Shrubs, Perennials** : Establishment within 3-months, fully rooted and mostly established



05

Seed & Sod

Whether you are seeding or sodding your lawn, the following are the recommendations and expectations to follow





Expectations for Your New Lawn

- **Seed Installation :** If you choose to have seed applied, this application will come with either erosion mat or hay.
 - The seed will come in patchy due to the nature of the seed germination.
 - The grass will germinate along with weeds within the new space, which is all expected.
- **Erosion Mat :** This mat is a blanket that is applied on-top of the grass seed.
 - This will help prevent erosion of the new seed. The erosion mat will be kept in place and the seed will develop over top.
 - The erosion mat will biodegrade overtime.

- **Hay :** An application of hay over seed is to help keep the seed in place, but it is very typical of hay to blow away and look messy, as it's a lightweight material.
 - The seed should still stay in place, as it blinds into the soil, but it could result in a patchy germination.
- **Sod Installation :** If you chose to have sod installed, you are choosing to have instant satisfaction!
 - You should expect the sod to root within 2-weeks.
 - Follow Bates Landscaping recommendations for a fertilizing and weed control program to keep your sod in ideal conditions.

Mowing for the First Time

- **Sod** : Establishment within 2-weeks, rooted
 - **First Mowing**: Sod should be slightly pulled up to ensure it has rooted properly. If it's well rooted and does not pull up (normally after 2-3 weeks), you can cut.
 - The deck for the mower should be set at the highest setting and mowed once, or ideally cut with a push mower
- **Seed** : Germination within 2-4 weeks, comes in patchy
 - **First Mowing**: Seed should be cut for the first time once it's thick and well-established, or after 3-4 weeks.
 - The deck for the mower should be set at the highest setting and mowed once, or ideally cut with a push mower



06

Aeration

Whether you're aerating in the spring or the fall, aftercare is very important! The following is a list of recommendations to follow.





Aeration

Expectations After Aeration

- **Aeration :** The process of removing plugs of soil in order to break up soil compaction, allowing oxygen and water to get down to the root zone.
 - Then organic fertilizer and a high-grade grass seed are applied to help promote grass growth.
- **Watering :** It is ideal to water the aerated area to help keep the ground moist.
 - This should be done by watering 3-4x per week depending on the timing of the year and weather conditions.

- **Mowing :** The first time you mow is very important! Before aeration the lawn should be cut, so that you can wait about 2-4 weeks before mowing the aerated space for the first time.
 - When you do mow, it is recommended to set the deck at the highest level to prevent ripping out the newly germinated grass.
- **Follow Up :** Aeration is a very important practice and one that should be completed on a yearly basis to keep the lawn healthy and lush.



07

Hardscaping

Aftercare is very important even for hardscaping features! In the following you'll find information on maintaining your investment.





Hardscaping

Maintenance

- **2-Years After Installation :** *To be completed every 2-3 years*
 - Power washing of the hard surface to appear neat and clean
 - Application of Poly Sand to fill in joints
 - Upgrade and Seal the hard surface for a glossy finish, wet look, or to become stain resistant. This is a protecting seal that will prolong the life of the hard surface





Hardscaping

Keep In Mind

- Blow off all leaves from the surface of the hardscaping feature
- Keep the surface neat and clean to prevent build up



08

Add-ons & Upgrades

*The Best Thing You Can Do For Your
Landscape is Hire a Professional*





Add-ons & Upgrades

Drainage Solutions

- If you have water pooling, water directing towards the house or other structures, or soil erosion - we can help!
- Our highly skilled team can install underground solutions to keep the water flowing in the right direction.



Aeration & Seeding

- As temperatures cool in the Fall, this is the ideal time for core aeration, seeding, and fertilizing. The core aerator helps to decompact the soil, while it oxygenizes it.
- Then we apply a high grade seed and lots of organic fertilizer. It's a much needed spa day for the turf to develop new grass roots and crowd out weeds.



Young Tree Pruning

- Young tree pruning or trees under a height of 20ft are great candidates for structural pruning.
- Trees at an early stage should be pruned to promote long-term structural health and prevent; crossing branches and codominant branches.



Root Collar Excavation

- A well-defined root collar should be exposed on all trees. If your tree is buried due to volcano mulch or improper planting, Bates Landscaping can help remediate this issue.
- An exposed root collar will allow you to see and remove girdling, and decrease the chances of an insect or disease issue.



Annual Flowers

- A great addition to any landscape is annual flowers!
- We can help with adding colorful and texturally interesting annuals to pots or containers, or adding annuals into your landscape beds.
- This can be completed; spring, summer, fall, and winter!





BATES

LANDSCAPING

484-887-8678 | www.bateslandscaping.net

Aftercare Guide