



MARIA
von BRINCKEN
LANDSCAPE
GARDEN
DESIGN

Beautiful Landscapes & Colorful Gardens

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Garden Care General Organic Guidelines

Water:

New Plantings: First Year: Water once everyday for first week, once weekly thereafter to equal 1" of rainfall. Second Year: You may need to water every 7-10 days. Third Year: perhaps every 14 days. The goal is to naturalize planting and wean from consistent watering. However, some perennial plantings and vegetables need consistent moisture for longest bloom and best fruit.

Purchase a rain gauge to measure rainfall. You'll find them inexpensive at local garden centers. If 1" of rainfall, skip the watering that week.

Soak by hand newly planted trees and shrubs one a week or more during hot spells even if irrigation is running.

Observe your landscape. Settings for automatic irrigation should be 2 or 3 x a week max (perhaps 20 min depending on terrain). Adjust settings for less or more water as shade or sunnier landscape require. Adjust settings seasonally—maybe more for late summer. For landscapes manual irrigation, consider using 'soaker' hose (will water 2' on either side) attached to timer. Test to determine the length of time it takes the soaker to 'soak' to depth of 6" of soil. (Try 45 min. once per week) Soaker hose should be covered with mulch. Soil should dry out between watering.

Water up to Thanksgiving. If the winter is mild and without rain, water new trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Over-watering: Signs include plants flopping, mold, and soil not drying out between watering. Remember: Too much water can kill as well as too little.

Established Plantings: The goal is to naturalize shrub and tree borders. Turn off irrigation zones or stop manual watering. During prolonged dry periods set irrigation zones to water weekly. You may need to hand water to give a good soak to trees under high stress. Established **perennials** only need water every 10 days to 2 weeks during dry spells. Remember mature tree roots reach out beyond their canopy and if growing under planting beds will take water from plantings. So account for that.

Mulching:

Mulch to prevent weeds and conserve moisture. Mulch to "feed" the soil. Use 1-3" compost for herbaceous beds, fine bark mulch for trees and shrub beds. Other options: Organic lawn clippings for herbaceous beds, shredded leaves (run lawn mower over and collect in mower's bag), pine needles are also acceptable in woody plant beds. Add composted cow manure annually.

Do not cover crown (center) or trunk. Keep mulch about 1" away. (Avoid mulch volcanoes!)

Option: Winter mulch: Apply when ground is frozen - usually end of December- beginning of January. Use evergreen boughs from cut up Christmas trees and storm debris and/or salt marsh hay to cover perennial beds. Remove in March. The evergreen boughs can create an attractive winter look if cut ends are tucked under other boughs out of sight. These are removed in early March so that early spring bulbs can be seen.



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Garden Care General Organic Guidelines (2)

Seasonal Care:

Fall:

As perennial plants die back, cut stems 1-2" from ground. Compost cuttings. Compost annuals and weed.

Weed as necessary.

Add compost. (Purchase or take from your compost pile).

Scatter Lime (so it looks like a light frost)

Add composted cow manure as top dressing in late fall. Mound manure or compost around shrub roses. (Spread out in spring)

Winter:

Add cut up boughs from Christmas trees, or storm breakage. Not only will it provide additional protection, but can be very decorative on bare perennial gardens.

Feb-- March: Cut back ornamental grasses and other 'winter interest' perennials (sedums, coneflowers seedheads) now. Prune fall blooming and vigorous clematis.

Spring:

Remove winter (evergreen) mulch in early March.

Lime and add compost to feed the soil and therefore the plants.

Freshen up spring mulch

Add annuals (after the last frost date - late May is the earliest)

Summer:

Deadhead flowers for repeat bloom

Water as needed

Weeding:

Pick small weeds as you see them. Turn them upside down and tuck under perennial foliage or collect and compost. Weeds are not only unsightly but compete for nutrients and moisture. **Remember: one year of seeds = seven years of weeds!**

Newly Seeded Grass:

Water: Keep moist for first 21-30 days (especially important until annual grass germinates in about 10 days) you may have to water lightly 2-3 times a day to keep moist. *If the seed is allowed to dry out just once you can loose up to 30% of your seed germination. When grass is about 2" tall, water 2-3 times a week for 45 - 50 minutes. This deep watering will encourage grass to develop deep roots.*

Mow: Cut when about 4"-6". Now water deeply once a week. (Root growth will continue until the ground freezes, and begin again when it thaws.)

Disease or Pests :

Your Plants are chosen to be disease resistant and hardy. These guidelines encourage your plants to adapt to their environment and tend to be healthier. Remember: healthy soil promotes healthy plants. However, the environmental world constantly changes. The organic philosophy tolerates some infestation or disturbance. To diagnose and treat: Take a sample leaf in a zip lock bag to your local nursery center. Only use organic products. Check on-line for products. In a dire situation your best organic choice might be removing and disposing of the plant. (Note: Don't dispose of diseased leaves or parts in the compost pile) Or very careful IPM (Integrated Pest Management) as a last resort . For the health of ourselves and family I recommend no use of pesticides/ herbicides.