



Annual Maintenance Instructions

Perennials

In early spring, remove foliage that died back over the winter, pruning woody stems 2-3 inches above the ground if necessary. Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer in early spring when new growth emerges and again in early summer. Plants can be deadheaded after blooming to improve appearance. Simply cut the flower stalks off just above the leaves. Bushy plants can be sheared back by about half in mid summer if plants are not looking good after blooming. This will cause them to flush out new growth, may encourage them to rebloom, and will improve the overall appearance of the plants.

Tender shrubs (Butterfly bush, Hydrangea, Knockout Roses)

In spring after new leaves emerge, cut back any branches that died back over the winter. Some winters these plants may die back all the way to the ground. This is normal and the plants will grow back very quickly. Knockout Roses can be cut back to 12-18 inches to maintain a smaller size before new growth emerges in the spring. Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer in early spring when new growth emerges and again in early summer. You can deadhead the plants after blooming to clean up appearance, but it is not necessary to plant health.

Shrubs

In early spring, prune any errant branches to maintain an attractive shape, and remove any dead branches. Evergreen shrubs can be sheared back, but the other plants should be pruned with hand pruners or loppers. Spring blooming shrubs like Forsythia, Lilacs, and Viburnum should not be pruned heavily until after they bloom. Pruning too early may remove most of the blooms from the plant. Never remove more than one-third of the plant during one season. Fertilize shrubs with a slow-release fertilizer like Osmocote in early spring when new growth emerges. Evergreen shrubs can be fertilized with Hollytone or fertilizer for acid loving plants in early spring, instead of granular fertilizer. Flowering shrubs can be cut back after blooming to clean up appearance if desired.

Ornamental Grass

Grasses should be cut back in late fall or early spring before new growth emerges. Fertilize in spring with a slow release fertilizer.

Trees

In early spring, prune any errant branches to maintain an attractive shape, and remove any dead branches. Fertilize in early spring and early fall with tree fertilizer spikes the first few years after planting. If deer are a problem in the area, the trunks on young trees should be wrapped with paper or plastic guards from September to early December to prevent injury.