



General Garden Care Tips

Watering Guidelines

Proper watering is the single most important maintenance factor in the care of your new garden. Too much or too little water can result in injury to the plant. It is preferable to water early in the morning. Also, whenever possible water at the base of the plant, rather than the leaves and petals. Following these guidelines will help get the water where it's needed and help protect the health of your plant.

- Newly planted trees and shrubs may need to be watered for 2-3 years until their root systems become established. Large trees may take longer. For the first few months of the growing season after a tree is planted the tree draws most of its moisture from the root ball. The root ball can dry out in only a day or two, while surrounding soil remains moist. To water the root ball and surrounding area, let the hose run slowly at the base of the tree under low pressure for 5-10 minutes.
- Perennials, like trees and shrubs, will need more care in their first years in the ground as they get established. Pay attention to the foliage to determine if the plant is getting enough water. Hot and windy days will dry the plant out faster. If the plant is not getting enough water you will notice it start to wilt, the leaves will sag. Just give the base of the plant a good drink and make a mental note to water in shorter intervals next time so as to not deprive the plant of water.
- Container plantings require the most watering. Because they are in containers they have less access to stored water as plants in the ground have. When it's not hot or windy, watering every few days should suffice. As the summer heat picks up you will at times need to water once daily, if not twice. The plants will give you signs to let you know when they're thirsty.

Tacita Gardens
47 Prentiss Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

617.285.2287
info@TacitaGardens.com

www.TacitaGardens.com



Weeding

Weeds will compete with your new plants for water, sun, and nutrients. The more you stay on top of the weeding game the easier it will be for you later. Mulch is a big helper, as is a strong, compact and established planting. Once your plants have grown into their space they will be able to help you keep weeds at bay. In certain situations it is actually better to cut weeds to the ground rather than pull them. Pulling the weeds can disturb the soil in a way that allows for new weeds to happily establish themselves. If pulling is getting you nowhere, you may want to try cutting the weeds to the ground instead. Give us a call if you're unsure about your specific situation.

Pruning

Correct pruning technique is an acquired skill and an art. Correct pruning times vary by species, as does the method of pruning.

The three objectives of pruning are safety, health, and aesthetics. Pruning for safety involves removing sick or dead branches that could fall, trimming branches that interfere with visibility on streets or driveways, and removing branches that grow into utility lines. Planting the right plant in the right place is the best way to avoid such maintenance. Pruning for health involves removing diseased or insect-infested wood, thinning the body of the plant to increase airflow, and removing any rubbing branches. Pruning for aesthetics involves enhancing the natural form and character of trees or stimulating flower production.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have regarding the health and care of your garden.

Sincerely,

Tacita and Catherine

Tacita Gardens
47 Prentiss Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

617.285.2287
info@TacitaGardens.com

www.TacitaGardens.com