



Palm & Plant Care Recommendations

Please review all pages. This information will be helpful in creating your personalized care and maintenance strategies.

These are recommendations. Please know that every plant and environment are different. If you have concerns about your plant/tree, please send photos to our office with any questions. Jenna.southernscapes@gmail.com

Growing Season

In our area, the growing season for Palms, and many ornamental plants, generally runs from mid-April/early May through September/October. Changes in temperature can impact this time frame.

Hand Watering with a Garden Hose:

If home has no irrigation system, or irrigation system does not reach area where plants are installed

- When temperatures are above 60 degrees, if watering by hand - focus water at the soil around the base of the plant - Water approximately 60 seconds around the base of large trees and palms. Water 10-15 seconds around the base of small shrubs, flowers, etc.
- For Weeks 1 -4 - Water Daily for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants.
- For Weeks 4-8 - Water 3-4 Times per week for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants.
- For weeks 8-end of growing season (End of growing season is when temperatures are consistently below 55-60 degrees) - Water 2 -3 times per week for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants.
- Water only in the morning. If we have had a soaking rain, skip watering until the soil around the base of the trees/plants has dried. You do not want puddling around the base of the tree/plant.

**These amounts and times are recommendations. Please know that every soil condition and weather change may impact the amount of water/time needed. Please always monitor your plants for signs of water stress (yellowing leaves, drooping leaves, shedding leaves, spots, etc.)*

Watering with an Irrigation System:

During the Spring & Summer growing seasons (typically beginning April) - Depending upon your soil conditions (how quickly irrigation water drains), systems should be set to run 4-5 days per week (only in the morning). Zones where new plantings are installed should run for 15-25 minutes per zone for spray irrigation (depending on coverage). If your irrigation system utilizes drip irrigation, the drip zones should run for longer periods of time, depending on the water rate (gallons per minute). If you feel that the irrigation times are not sufficient, or are too much for your new plantings, please contact our office to discuss. We want to make sure that new plants are receiving adequate amounts of water but are not sitting in water that is not draining or is holding for too long around the root system.

No additional watering or irrigation should be applied to plants or trees when temperatures are below 50 degrees.

During periods of drought or extreme high temperatures, extra precautions should be taken to make sure all plants are receiving adequate daily morning waterings to help reduce heat stress.

Please monitor your irrigation system to make sure zones are adequately reaching the soil around each new plant/tree. Also check to make sure new plantings do not block water distribution to turf, other plantings and landscape bed areas.



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Fertilization

Please do not begin fertilizing plants until approximately 6 weeks after installation. We recommend fertilizing 3 times per year (during the growing season). Outside temperature should be consistently above 50 degrees.

Once the 6-week time frame (after installation) has passed, please start fertilizing immediately, using the schedule below

Fertilization 1 = Spring MAY

Fertilization 2 = Summer JULY

Fertilization 3 = Fall SEPTEMBER

We recommend "Palm Perfect" 8-2-12 granular fertilizer for your palms. Your next fertilizer application will be in Fall 2020. We sell this fertilizer at our Garden Center. This information can also be found on your palm tree warranty document.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Fertilizer should NEVER touch the palm tree/shrub/plant, trunk, leaves, or roots. The fertilizer should be applied to the soil around the base of the tree, making sure to leave adequate space between the trunk and where the fertilizer is applied. We recommend keeping approximately 6"-8" between the trunk and the fertilizer application zone for larger trees. For smaller trees and shrubs, fertilizer should remain at least 3-4" away from the base of the plant.

A solution of Epsom Salt and water may be applied at the palm tree "drip line" BETWEEN fertilization applications. (Typically June and August)

For flowering shrubs and many evergreen shrubs, we recommend using Osmocote "Flower & Vegetable" granular 14-14-14 fertilizer, which we sell at our Garden Center. This should also be applied 2 - 3 times per year, during the growing season (May – September). Application amounts and instructions are listed on the packaging.

For Roses (both Drift and Knockout varieties), we recommend Rose-Tone fertilizer, which we sell at our Garden Center. For best flower production, Rose-Tone can be applied monthly through the growing season (typically May – August/September). Application instructions can be found on the packaging.

For Hollies, Azaleas, Magnolias, Camellias, and many evergreen shrubs, we recommend using Holly-Tone fertilizer, which we sell at our Garden Center. Feed in the Spring and late Fall (Fall feeding is half the Spring rate). Blooming evergreens, like Azaleas, are best fed in the spring at the first hint of bloom color.

Please make sure that fertilizer or Epsom Salt solution never touches the tree or plant. These items can burn and damage the tree.

Please apply fertilizers along the drip line. After applying fertilizers, please water fertilizer application site for approximately 10 - 20 seconds with water hose to "activate" the fertilizer.

Trimming

Please allow at least 6-8 weeks after plants are installed before any pruning or trimming. For flowering plants, please prune after plant has finished flowering (for most, this will be late spring and fall). Please avoid trimming during the extreme temperatures (Summer & Winter). Please don't hesitate to call or email us with questions on best trimming practices prior to trimming.

For palms, fronds should not be trimmed until they are COMPLETELY brown.



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Helpful Plant Information Websites:

Clemson University Home & Garden Information Center

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/palms-cycads/>
<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/fertilizing-trees-shrubs/>
<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/pruning-shrubs/>

Rose Information

<https://www.knockoutroses.com/pruning>
<https://www.knockoutroses.com/fertilizing>
<https://www.driftroses.com/care>

Plant Collections

<https://southernlivingplants.com/planting-care/>
https://www.provenwinners.com/learn_articles
<https://www.blackdiamondblooms.com/>
<https://www.encoreazalea.com/gardening/plant-care>
<https://www.monrovia.com>

Helpful Irrigation Information Websites:

Clemson University Home & Garden Information Center

[Determining When to Irrigate:](#)

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/pdf/hgic1801.pdf>

[Irrigation Time of Day](#)

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/pdf/hgic1804.pdf>

[Soil Type & Irrigation Frequency](#)

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/pdf/hgic1805.pdf>