



# Plant Care Recommendations

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

**These are our general care recommendations. Please know that every plant and environment are different. If you have concerns about plants/trees, please send photos to the email provided below with any questions. [jenna.southernscapes@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

When temperatures are above 60 degrees - focus water at the soil around the base of the plant - Water approximately 45 - 60 seconds around the base of large trees and palms . Water 8 - 10 seconds around the base of small shrubs, flowers, etc

- January and February - Only water if temperatures exceed 60 degrees.
- March to Mid April - Water 2 to 3 times per week for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants
- Mid April - May - Water 3 to 4 times per week for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants
- June, July, August, early September - Water daily for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants
- October to November - Water 2 to 3 times per week for recommended time (based on size of plant) at the base of trees and plants
- December - Only water if temperatures exceed 60 degrees.

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. **\*These amounts and times are recommendations. Please modify your watering schedule to accommodate days of rainfall or varying temperatures. 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, spots, etc.)**

## **Watering with an Irrigation System:**

Newly installed plants and palms/trees will receive a great benefit from hand watering, rather than only watering with an irrigation system. Please keep in mind that an irrigation system usually will only water the top few inches of ground. Newly installed plants and trees will need more specific water application (see schedule above). 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. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any specific questions about irrigation system schedules.

**No additional watering or irrigation should be applied to plants or trees when temperatures are below 55 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 covering all turf and landscape bed areas for established plants.. Also check to make sure new plantings do not block water distribution to turf, other plantings and landscape bed areas.



## Plant Care Recommendations

### **Fertilization:**

**Please do not begin fertilizing plants until at least 6 weeks after installation. We recommend fertilizing palms 3 times per year (during the growing season). Many shrubs and grasses will benefit from fertilizer application 1 to 2 times per year (usually Spring and Fall). Outside temperatures should be consistently above 50 degrees.**

Once the 6-week time frame (after installation) has passed, please start applying fertilizer to palms, according to the schedule below:

- Fertilization 1 = Spring (May)
- Epsom Salt Application = June
- Fertilization 2 = Summer (July)
- Epsom Salt Application = August
- Fertilization 3 = Fall (September)

We recommend "Palm Perfect" 8-2-12 granular fertilizer for your palms. We sell this fertilizer at our Garden Center. An Epsom Salt Solution may be applied at the palm tree "drip line" BETWEEN fertilization applications for all palms. (Epsom Salt Solution = 1 Tablespoon of Epsom Salt mixed with 1 Gallon of water)

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

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**Fertilizer should NEVER touch the palm tree /shrub/plant, trunk, leaves, or root. 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 8"-12" between the trunk and the fertilizer application zone for larger trees. For smaller trees and shrubs, fertilizer should remain at least 4-6" away from the base of the plant out to where the drip line is located.**

For many shrubs and evergreens, we recommend Plant-Tone fertilizer (by Espoma), which we sell at our Garden Center.

For Roses, we recommend Rose-Tone, which can be applied monthly throughout the growing season (typically May - August/September).

For Hollies, Azaleas, Magnolias, Camellias, and most acid-loving trees or shrubs, we recommend using Holly-Tone fertilizer which we also 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.

*Application instructions and amounts can be found on the packaging. Please apply fertilizers along the drip line. After applying fertilizers, please water the fertilizer granules for approximately 10 -20 seconds with a garden hose.*

### **Trimming:**

Please allow at least 6-8 weeks after plants are installed before any pruning or trimming. Many plants will not need pruning during the first growing season. When in doubt, please reach out to our office with any pruning questions. For flowering plants, please prune after the plant has finished its flowering. Please avoid trimming during the extreme temperatures (Summer and Winter). Please don't hesitate to call or email us with questions on best trimming practices prior to trimming. Palm fronds should not be trimmed until they are completely brown.



# Plant Care Recommendations

## **Helpful Plant Information Websites:**

Palms / Trees / Shrubs

<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.provenwinners.com/learn_articles)

<https://www.blackdiamondblooms.com/>

<https://www.encoreazalea.com/gardening/plant-care>

<https://www.monrovia.com>

## **Helpful Irrigation Information:**

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>

## **Yearly Maintenance Recommendations for Sod/Grass (by type):**

Centipede yearly maintenance calendar

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/centipedegrass-maintenance-calendar/>

Bermuda yearly maintenance calendar

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/bermudagrass-maintenance-calendar/>

Zoysia yearly maintenance calendar

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/zoysiagrass-maintenance-calendar/>

St. Augustine yearly maintenance calendar

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/st-augustinegrass-maintenance-calendar/>