



Hong's Landscape & Nursery, Inc.

LANDSCAPE CARE MANUAL



**Hong's Landscape
and Nursery, Inc.**

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Congratulations on the installation of your new landscape!

At Hong's Landscape and Nursery, Inc. we pride ourselves on the fact that we install a high-quality product for our customers that is not only unique and beautiful, but one that will remain that way for many years. Now that your landscape is installed, it is up to you to insure that it will thrive into the future by maintaining it. When performed routinely, maintenance will be fairly simple. You may even find that taking care of your plants is therapeutic and enjoyable!

The following guide is to assist you in making sure your landscape stays healthy and beautiful for years to come. You are of course always welcome to give us a call or visit us at our garden center for answers to any gardening questions you may have. Also, for those who discover that being out in the garden is NOT your passion, we provide maintenance services so you can spend your time doing what you do love and leave the maintenance to us!

We thank you for your business and we look forward to serving you further in the future!

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Landscape Care Manual

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WATERING:

The most important maintenance you must do for a healthy landscape is also one of the easiest. By simply watering in the proper amounts and frequency, your plants will not only stay alive, but healthy and vigorous. Water requirements for plants will vary depending on weather and many other factors that will not be covered here. This is a set of general guidelines to give you a baseline from which you may deviate based on personal observation as you monitor your plants. Keep in mind that overwatering your plants is as fatal to plants as a lack of water. Heavy clay soils retain water longer than sandy soils so be aware of your soil type and make sure to let plants dry down a little between waterings.

➤ **Establishment (4-6 weeks past installation date)**

- Automatic Systems:
 - Dripline- Run 3-4 times per week for 15-25 minutes per zone
 - Sprays- Run every other day for 10-15 minutes per zone
 - Trees in lawn area should be deep watered several times/week with hose
- Manual/Hose Watering:
 - Water plant root ball with shower head 3-4 times/week approximately 1 quart/perennial, ½ gallon/shrub, and 5 gallons/tree
 - Trees planted in the lawn will need to be watered several times/week even if lawn sprinklers are present

➤ **Root Development (1-3 years past installation date)**

- Automatic Systems:
 - Dripline- Run 2-3 times per week for 15-25 minutes per zone
 - Sprays- Run 3-4 times per week for 18-20 minutes per zone
 - Trees in lawn area should be deep watered once/week with hose
- Manual/Hose Watering:
 - Water plant root ball with shower head 1-2 times/week approximately ½ gallon/perennial, 1 1/2 gallons/ per shrub, 5 gallons/tree
 - Trees in lawn should be deep watered once per week (7-10 gallons with the hose on a trickle) especially through the heat of summer

➤ **Growth/Sustainment (life of plant)**

- Automatic Systems:
 - Try to reduce frequency to 1 or 2 times per week. Leave run times on zones the same as for root development. Rain sensors and smart controllers can reduce water usage
- Manual/Hose Watering:
 - Water once per week given no rainfall. Amounts should remain similar to those recommended in root development period

➤ **Fall/Winter Watering (November-Spring)**

- Applies to homeowners with automatic systems as well since they will be off
- Water 2-3 times/month with hose given no rain or significant snowfall
- Water trees 7-10 gallons/2" diameter of trunk & shrubs ½ gallon/2' of height

FERTILIZATION:

Along with watering, fertilization of your plants will be very important for the development of roots, growth, and prolific flowering. Keeping your plants adequately fed will result in faster growing plants that will sport richly colored foliage and vibrant, longer lasting flowers. Much the same as with watering, more is not always better and an overabundance of fertilizer can be harmful to a plant. A good thing to remember when feeding plants is to do it at times when the plant is requiring the most nutrients. For the majority of plants, these times are in the early spring when the plant is pushing leaves/flowers and just prior to leaf shed in the fall when the plant is storing up energy for the winter months while it will be dormant. The following are a few fertilizers recommended and sold by Hong's Landscape and Nursery, Inc. at our garden center. We have a wide range of additional specialty fertilizers available as well.

ferti-lome® Root Stimulator & Plant Starter Solution

Use this blend of hormones and fertilizers on all plants during establishment to encourage rapid and strong root growth. Quicker root establishment will aid in faster growth and may reduce watering needs.

ferti-lome® Tree and Shrub Food

A general blend fertilizer in granular form that can be applied to any trees or shrubs without the need to dig holes around the plant. This blend features a mix of granules that will release nutrients at different times rather than all at once for a more natural feeding.

ferti-lome® Rose & Flower Food with Systemic Insecticide

A specially blended fertilizer for roses and flowering shrubs containing higher amounts of phosphorus to promote more prolific flowering and longer bloom times. Also included in this fertilizer is a systemic insecticide which will be absorbed into the plant and control insects.

Hi-Yield® Iron + Soil Acidifier

Trees sensitive to a lack of iron (Pin Oak, Birch, Maples) may suffer from chlorosis. Chlorosis is identified by a pale almost neon green color to the foliage while the veining of the leaf retains dark color. Rarely is this fatal to the tree unless left untreated for multiple seasons. Using an iron additive, especially one with a soil acidifier will remedy the issue over time.

Hi-Yield® Aluminum Sulfate

Not a fertilizer, but Aluminum Sulfate is used to acidify soil and in the case of Hydrangeas will change their color to blue or retain blue coloring. This can also boost the blue color of a Blue Spruce and is a great additive for Azalea, Camillia, Rhododendron, Holly, and other plants which benefit from an acidic soil.

ferti-lome® Premium Bedding Plant Food

An excellent granular blend for annual and perennial flowers. High amounts of phosphorus in this fertilizer will ensure beautiful and longer lasting blooms.

TRIMMING/PRUNING:

Pruning and trimming of trees and shrubs should be done for a number of reasons. While aesthetics would probably be the main reason for trimming, plant health and size management are also important reasons to do it. Annual pruning of trees and shrubs will allow them to be kept smaller without causing undue stress to the plant. Healthy plants, like healthy people, will look better and live longer providing you the most for your investment.

SHRUBS:

Pruning back a shrub will keep its form dense and tight with a lot of foliage throughout the plant. Shrubs left untrimmed for a long amount of time may become “leggy” with little to no foliage towards the bottom. These plants will eventually have to be rejuvenated, which results in the plant looking bad for several seasons, or in severe cases completely replaced. For plants with dense foliage that grow quickly, such as Roses and Spirea, it is recommended that they are trimmed back by about 1/3 of the growth in early spring to encourage fresh growth and keep them from becoming leggy. Pruning out dead wood is also important as dead wood often harbors insects and fungal type diseases which can spread to healthy parts of the plant. Removing dead wood also encourage new growth to replace the limbs that have died out. When dealing with flowering shrubs, the timing of the trimming is important and must be considered for optimal flowering. As a general rule, prune spring blooming shrubs like Azalea, Forsythia, and Rhododendron AFTER they flower in the spring since they bloom on old wood. Summer and fall blooming shrubs should be pruned in the winter or very early spring. Lilac, Roses, Hydrangea, and Spirea would fall into this category as they boom on the current season’s wood. Whether a plant blooms on old or new wood will indicate when that shrub should be pruned to not effect blooming.

TREES:

Trees should be monitored annually for pruning so that unwanted limbs can be removed before they become large and difficult to deal with. Also, removing larger limbs will cause more stress to the tree and create larger areas of exposed cambial tissue that will have to wound over. This will leave the tree susceptible to insect damage and disease for longer amounts of time. Make sure when making pruning cuts on a tree that a sharp saw is used that will result in a smooth cut. A smooth cut will wound over and seal much faster than a rough or jagged cut. Cuts should be made about ¼” from the trunk or limb that is being cut from. A flush cut against the trunk of the tree will result in very slow wounding over.

PERENNIALS:

Perennials are easy to trim as they are almost always cut back within an inch of the ground level. The purpose of trimming perennials is almost completely aesthetic to remove last year’s growth that has died back. However, removing said growth allows the new growth to come in thicker and more quickly and is recommended, especially for perennials such as grasses.

WEED CONTROL

Controlling weeds is like cleaning a house: if you do a little bit every week it won't seem like a huge chore and will always look nice. In contrast, if you wait until beds are a disaster, the task will be much more difficult if not impossible. Also, if you allow weeds to become large sizes in your beds it is often difficult to remove them without disrupting the plants you want to keep as their roots will intertwine.

The good news is that weed control is not completely dependent on spending hours and hours every week on your hands and knees pulling out weeds. There are a number of chemicals that can aid in eliminating and even preventing weeds from growing.

Hi-Yield® Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper

The best way to cut down your weed-removal workload is to not have to mechanically remove them at all. This pre-emergent chemical prevents weed seeds from being able to germinate and grow in the first place. As the pre-emergent name would suggest, this chemical only works if it is applied BEFORE the weeds emerge. Get out in early spring and apply this chemical for best results. Additional applications may be required throughout the growing season for optimal weed suppression. This can be used in your lawn to control weeds as well provided you don't overseed in the spring as it will keep grass seeds from germinating as well.

ferti-lome® Over the Top II

This is a selective weed killer that will kill grassy weeds in your flower beds without causing harm to many of your flowers or broad leafed plants. Over the Top works really well for killing any grass that found its way into your landscape beds in the fall during over-seeding of the lawn. Do be careful with this chemical around turf areas as it will kill the grass in your lawn as effectively as it does in your landscape beds!

Bonide® Sedge Ender

Nutsedge is a grassy looking weed that grows in clumps of shiny blades and spreads in landscape beds and turf areas. It can easily be identified by pulling it out and examining the roots. Attached to the end of the roots will be sphere-shaped tubers or "nuts". Using a specialized chemical such as Sedge Ender is the only way to kill this weed as even non-selective chemicals such as Round-up will not kill it. Sedge Ender can be sprayed in turf areas and will kill sedge without harming your lawn.

Hi-Yield® Killzall

Killzall is a non-selective chemical which means it will kill whatever you spray it on. Similar to Round-up, but more concentrated, Killzall can be used to kill grass and weeds in sidewalk cracks, along fences, and foundations.

GROUNDCOVERS

Mulch:

Mulch is the most common groundcover used by Hong's Landscape as it is a better insulator than gravel. It is also better in general for plant health, water conservation, and is a natural insect repellent. Hong's installs landscapes with a **Grade A Cedar Bark Mulch**. This mulch is produced from the bark of a cedar tree and not the heartwood resulting in a mulch that is naturally dark in color and a consistent fine shred of wood fiber rather than large chips. Being a finer hair-like texture, this mulch weaves and locks together preventing it from blowing around or washing away as easily as a mulch with large chips. This "locking together" also results in the mulch creating a mat-like barrier over the soil that helps suppress weeds. In regards to weeds, Hong's Landscape does not install nor do we recommend installing a weed fabric when using mulch as a groundcover. Mulch breaks down into soil over time and installing a weed fabric will prevent the nutrients in decomposing mulch to return to the soil. Additionally, weeds will just grow on top of the weed fabric once the mulch has broken down into soil requiring all the old mulch to be removed prior to installing new mulch rather than just topdressing mulch that is installed directly onto the soil. It is better to install mulch without a weed fabric underneath and use a pre-emergent chemical such as **Hi-Yield® Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper** to control weeds.

Topdressing, or adding fresh mulch over the top of existing mulch is not necessarily a maintenance that must be performed annually. When using a high-grade mulch, the frequency at which topdressing will be necessary is reduced. Many customers do choose to do light topdressing of their mulched beds annually to give everything a fresh new look in the spring. This is often a personal preference of aesthetics more than a necessity. Mulch will break down into the soil and will need to be replenished eventually, but can be done so as it is required to cover bare spots or conceal dripline irrigation hoses rather than a complete topdressing. It is recommended to keep your mulch several inches thick as it will aid in reducing evaporation and water demand of plants and insulate plants through the winter months.

Continuing to use **Grade A Cedar Bark Mulch** that contains only bark wood is highly recommended. It may seem more costly upfront, but after picking up wood chips out of your lawn every time the wind blows and having to topdress a cheaper mulch several times per season we think you'll agree that the higher quality mulch is worth it! Come see us at our garden center for the same great mulch we installed your landscape with.

Gravel:

If your landscape was installed with gravel as the groundcover, we installed a high-quality weed fabric under the gravel to help suppress weeds and keep the gravel from settling into the soil. A gravel groundcover will not require much maintenance for many years although applying a pre-emergent weed control chemical annually such as **Hi-Yield® Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper** is recommended.

INSECT/DISEASE CONTROL

Monitoring your plants for insect problems and diseases is important as many of these issues can be resolved with little to no consequence to the plant if caught in time. If you observe irregularities in the appearance of your plants please contact Hong's Landscape immediately. The best and quickest way for us to assist you will be to take a cutting of the affected plant which exhibits the symptoms or problem you are observing and bring it to our garden center for diagnosis. Try to bring in a cutting of decent size and not just single leaves as this will make diagnosis easier and more precise. If insects are causing damage to your plants and you can catch them in the act, try to collect a few in a plastic bag or jar and bring them in for identification and a proper solution to eradicate them. Photographs are also very helpful in diagnosing a problem. Try to take several close-up photographs of affected areas as well as a few that show the entire plant. While we at Hong's are always happy to assist our customers with diagnosing plant issues, there are a few common problems you should be aware of as well as their solutions. The following are a few such problems that can easily be remedied or prevented:

Borers- Borers are insects which chew or bore holes into trees to lay eggs. In doing so, borers destroy cambial tissue which is what carries water and nutrients to the rest of the plant. In severe infestations borers will kill the tree. Look for small holes in the trunk of the tree between ground level and the first branches. The bark of the tree will usually be loose and easily peel from the tree in areas where many of these holes are observed. To help prevent borer damage, use a systemic chemical such as **ferti-lome® Tree and Shrub Systemic Insect Drench** which will be applied annually. If borers are already present or during their active migration and egg laying (late May to August for most species) a topical spray can be used to kill them. **ferti-lome® Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar & Leafminer Spray** is the best chemical to apply. It is also safe for use around pets.

Grasshoppers, Mites, & Other Chewing/Sucking Insects- Damage from these types of insects is obvious by observing the leaves of a plant. If leaves have jagged or chewed margins and/or holes, one of these pests is most likely present. If leaves seem to be pale in color, mites or aphids may be present. A good chemical that covers a vast array of such insect types and is safe around pets is **Bonide® Malathion**. Another chemical that is very effective on chewing insects such as beetles and caterpillars is **Bonide® Beetle Killer**. While prevention of these pests is possible, they are generally best controlled when observed to be actively feeding.

Scale- Scale look like bumpy scabs and attach themselves to the stems of plants. Using a systemic drench such as **ferti-lome® Tree and Shrub Systemic Insect Drench** on plants can help prevent the insect. Scale insects start as crawlers which will then become the armored bumps you see on the stems. When in the crawler stage (May-early August), scale can be controlled with **Bonide® Malathion**. Once armored a dormant oil such as **Bonide® All Seasons Horticultural & Dormant Spray Oil** should be used.

INSECT/DISEASE CONTROL cont.

Bagworms- Bagworms are a fairly well-known pest and are easily identified by the sleeping bag like cocoons they make from the foliage they chew off of plants. Bagworms most commonly attack evergreens, but attacks on deciduous plants is not uncommon by any means. Bagworms are active from late May through June and should be sprayed at this time with **ferti-lome®**

Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar & Leafminer Spray.

Fungal Diseases- Fungal diseases are usually the result of improper watering techniques or a lack of air flow. Watering late in the day to the foliage of a plant causing it to stay damp throughout the night during hot summers is an open invitation to fungal issues in plants and should be avoided. If a fungal disease is observed on the foliage of a plant; which usually manifests in black or orange/yellow spots, fuzzy white or black leaves, or small holes; a fungicide should be applied. **ferti-lome® Liquid Systemic Fungicide II** is recommended as it will both control and prevent fungal issues.

Sun Scald- Not really a disease, sun scald is the result of rapid freeze/thaw on the bark of young trees. This will most often be observed on the South side of a tree and results in vertical splits in the tree bark that will eventually fall off exposing the inner wood of the tree. This affliction is commonly misidentified as damage from boring insects, but can be as fatal to the tree as borers in extreme cases. Sun scald is most common on Maple trees and is easily prevented by wrapping the trunks of trees in the fall prior to cold winter temperatures. Hong's recommends using **Clark's Tree Wrap** which is a wax coated paper tree wrap and to wrap your trees until the bark on said tree matures to the point where it is ridging naturally.

HONG'S PLANT WARRANTY

Plants purchased from and installed by Hong's Landscape & Nursery, Inc. are warranted and subject to warranty if the plant completely fails (dies) within one (1) year from the date of installation. A live plant of comparable value will be supplied to the PURCHASER in the form of a no-charge invoice. In no case will replacements be authorized which exceeds the original purchase price. **Replacements will only be authorized one time on any given plant.**

Availability of the same species or size of plant is not warranted. Any plant which completely fails must be examined by Hong's Landscape & Nursery, Inc. prior to being removed from the ground. **Hong's Landscape & Nursery, Inc. is not responsible for the replacement of plants that fail as a result of extreme acts of nature, vandalism, neglect, or mechanical injury.** Grass seed & sod, transplants (including tree spading), pond plants, & fish are not warranted.

Cash refunds will not be given

Replacements will not be authorized until at least three months after plants have been installed. Replacements will be scheduled at our discretion based on schedule, material availability, and season. Warranty applies only to original home owner.

This warranty is void if purchaser fails to pay invoice in full.

Hong's Landscape & Nursery, Inc. will not be held responsible for any damage, which might occur during installation and/or construction to any undetectable lines (**sprinkler system lines, yard lighting system, storm sewer lines, and invisible dog fence lines**). There will be an additional charge if Hong's Landscape & Nursery, Inc. does the repairs.