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Plant Care Sheet

Perennials-Plants/flowers returning each season that may die-back to the ground during periods frost or extended cold. (Example: day lily, coneflowers, hosta, coral bells, butterfly weed, astilbe, catmint, butterfly bush, iris, ect.)

- Ensure proper watering through-out the entire season
- Trim to ground & remove dead foliage after the frost has created die-back in fall
- **PRO TIP: Often, perennials will flower more heavily if old flowers are removed. This process is known as “dead-heading” and is not required to enjoy your landscape, but can provide longer fuller color.**

Ornamental Grass-Decorative grasses in the planting beds. (Example: maiden, zebra, fountain, bunny, Karl forester, prairie dropseed, ect.)

- Ensure proper watering through-out the entire season
- Trim grass 3-4” above grade before spring growth begins (end of March)
- Every 2-4 years, plan on dividing or cutting out expanded sections of the grass plant. Most grasses grow from the center, outward.
- **PRO TIP: Depending on your personal style, grasses may be trimmed in fall or spring. Grasses trimmed in fall avoid the messy look during late winter. Grasses trimmed in late winter provide extra interest in the landscape during the bleak winter months. The choice is yours!**

Hydrangea-Hydrangea need special care.

- Marchophylla & Quercifolia- bloom in early summer til seasons end so they set their bloom buds in the late summer. Example: big leaf, mophead, lacecap, endless summer, oakleaf
 1. Prune immediately after flowering to first bud set
 2. Older shrubs that have lost vigor, cut up to a third of all stems to the ground in late winter focusing on oldest branches that no longer produce heavy flowers. This technique should be used to increase vigor and balance lop-sided plants.
- Arborescens & Paniculata-Bloom on new wood. Example: Annabelle, smooth, pee gee, panicle
 3. Prune in late winter to keep plants from becoming overgrown and encourage new growth, more flower buds, and larger blooms. May be pruned to the ground.
 4. Clean-up plant by removing dead flowers as soon as they become unattractive and clean-up the overall shape of plant.
- **PRO TIP: Pink hydrangeas can be turned blue by applying aluminum sulfate to lower soil pH. Applying lime to raise the soil pH will help blue hydrangeas turn pink. Special hydrangea plant/fertilizer mixes from the nursery are recommended for the average gardener. White hydrangeas cannot be turned.**

Shrubs-Small to medium sized plants that often maintain a woody structure with multiple branches year-round. Leaves may be lost, but the structure of the plant is retained. (Example: boxwood, yew, weigela, burning bush, fothergilla, cypress, lilac, rose, rhododendron, azalea, globe spruce, variegated willow, redbud dogwood, ect.)

- Ensure proper watering through-out the season
- Trim shrubs as needed in mid-summer (July)
- **PRO TIP: Trim two-three times per season (April/July/ December-January) to retain a refined and clean appearance.** *This level of care is not recommended for owners unfamiliar with the flowering schedule of flowering shrubs. Improper pruning may remove the bud-set for some flowering shrubs reducing or in some case eliminating the flowers of some shrubs for a season.*



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