

Tips to help keep your garden beautiful



• **WATER:** Your plants need to become "established," so you must water regularly,



especially during warm or dry periods. Water in the morning, before the full heat of the day as this helps plants to "wake up," just like your cold morning shower. Watering in the morning ensures that the leaves will dry off by evening. If leaves stay wet overnight it invites fungus and diseases. Change your irrigation with the seasons.

• **FERTILIZE:** Use an all-purpose fertilizer, such as Miracle-Gro, and spray it on your plants at least every other week during the spring through fall growing season. If you prefer a non-chemical option, use any type of organic fertilizer found at your local garden center.

• **MULCH:** Keep your plants mulched. We have put down 2-3" of mulch but you can continue to add to that and refresh it. Mulch traps moisture and slows evaporation. It also helps keep the heat in, which is extremely important for encouraging root growth and establishing the plant, especially in autumn. It also reduces weeding.

• **DEADHEAD:** Remove dead blooms regularly ("deadhead") by clipping them off with a clipper or plucking them with your hands. It helps to channel the plant's energy into producing more flowers, and also prevents disease.

• **PRUNING:** Keep on top of pruning. Trim anything that is getting leggy and has open growth. Cut out deadwood and cross-stems that rub on each other. Don't prune your plants into neat little balls unless they are topiaries. Keep the shape tidy and natural



looking. If you want little ugly balls, you may as well go buy some ugly plastic groynes as well! If a plant isn't flowering well, then pruning, followed by feeding, will do the trick.

• **SNAILS & SLUGS:** Use snail and slug bait at least once a month, or when you see any holes in the leaves of your plant. Slugs and snails will eat your plants right to the ground. Non-toxic brands are available that are not harmful to pets. Always treat pests promptly.



Of course, if you don't like your next door neighbors, you can always toss your snails into their yard!

• **WHITE FLIES:** Trim back the plant as much as possible. Throw all stems out that have white flies on their leaves. Spray with Ultra-Fine Year-Round Pesticide Oil which is one of the least toxic ways to smother white flies.

• **RUST:** Rust looks exactly like it sounds. Orange and brown or black spots appear on the leaves and stems, making the plants quite ugly, and in some cases, causing death. Remove and dispose of any infected leaves, especially at the end of the season to prevent over-wintering. Potassium deficiency encourages rust and mildew, so apply potash.