



## Garden maintenance guide

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## Instructions for maintaining your garden

High-quality and regular maintenance of the created garden is the main factor directly influencing the success of the architectural design and thus the quality of the work in the long term.

We recommend entrusting activities requiring certain skills or special knowledge to a qualified professional.

### Ornamental flower beds

The plants in the beds are diverse, which means that there are several principles for their maintenance.

#### **Wood cutting:**

We perform this mainly in the spring months, individually depending on the weather, ideally just before the vegetative buds (leaves) appear, i.e. March - April. The exception is shrubs that bloom early in the spring; we prune (cut) them after flowering. For ornamental trees, we perform shaping (maintenance) pruning, where we shorten overly long shoots in order to thicken the growth. We cut just above the bud (1-2 cm) and remove shoots pointing towards the inside of the crown.

#### **Older covers:**

We use rejuvenating pruning, where we cut the crown just above the soil surface, but leave  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the shoots. It is good to spread the pruning over two growing seasons to spare the plant from excessive shock after pruning. In the first year, cut back  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the growth and the rest in the second year. It is recommended to leave this to a professional.

#### **Flowering perennials:**

Cut off (trim) wilted and dried parts regularly. After this, the plant will bloom again during the growing season.

#### **Ornamental grasses:**

We remove the above-ground part in the spring months to prevent them from lying down in the winter months, so we tie them around the perimeter, especially tall grasses. Furthermore, during the growing season, we regularly weed the surface so that the beauty of the ornamental grasses stands out.

#### **Hedges:**

They are regularly maintained according to the type of plant. Some fast-growing species, such as privet (*Ligustrum*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus*), are pruned several times a year if we want them to look neat. Most species are pruned twice a year, in spring and then again in August, e.g. hornbeam (*Carpinus*), firethorn (*Pyracantha*), boxwood (*Buxus*), thuja (*Thuja*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), etc.

## Nutrients

All plants, such as trees, perennials and annuals, need nutrients, especially during the growth period and when new shoots are forming – from February to mid-August.

### Basic rules for applying nutrients

- Add fertiliser when planting – not on the roots.
- After transplanting, fertilise after 6 weeks.
- Do not fertilise diseased plants.
- Do not add fertiliser to dry substrate; root balls must be moist.
- Fertilise during the growing season.
- It is better to fertilise several times in lower concentrations than less often in higher concentrations.

If you want to make your work easier and ensure that your plants are healthy and properly nourished, use high-quality fertiliser from Scotts.

### Scotts tablets for trees and shrubs 15+09+09+3MgO

**Effective period:** 12–14 months

**Recommended dosage:** 1 tablet per 1 cm of tree trunk diameter or per 20 cm of crown height.

**Easy to apply when planting in spring and autumn.**

**Packaging:** 2.5 kg / 1.5 g tablets (approx. 166 tablets / package).

#### **Sauce:**

It is especially important in the first few years after planting. Conifers and evergreen shrubs generally require more moisture than deciduous trees. In case of a dry autumn, it is particularly important to water these trees generously. It is better to water less often but more generously. Be careful during dry periods in the summer months, when you should water generously in the evening at least 1-3 times a week. It is a great advantage if ornamental beds also have a drip irrigation system, which is controlled by a computer or manually.





### ***Fertilisation:***

It is most important for young plantings and more demanding shrubs. Full or special fertilisers can be used in a dose of about 0.6-0.8 g/m<sup>2</sup>. For conifers, use half the dose. The best time for fertilisation is just before vegetation, and fertilisers should be worked into the soil if possible. Do not apply to the roots, as this will burn them. Pay attention to the dosage and follow the instructions.

### ***Deburring:***

This is important for dense groups of trees and must be done until the plants form a continuous stand that suppresses weed growth. Weeding is most often done by hoeing, although weeds can also be removed with special herbicides. Weed growth can also be limited by a thick layer of crushed bark mulch.

## **Protection of trees**

### ***Winter protection***

Winter protection is important for some delicate trees. Deciduous trees include azaleas, hydrangeas, hibiscus, Japanese maples and garden roses. In late autumn, cover the lower part of the plants with dry leaves or a layer of bark. Most evergreen shrubs are delicate and, in addition to the soil, the above-ground part must also be covered, especially if they are in an unshaded location. Cover such shrubs lightly with brushwood or use jute or geotextile. If the unprotected parts of the branches freeze in harsh winters, the plants will regenerate easily after cutting them off. Damage to conifers can be caused in winter by heavy snow and ice. Branches break under the weight, distorting the original shape of the plant. Therefore, snow should be carefully shaken off the trees.

### ***Protection against diseases and pests***

It is important to protect plants against diseases and pests that can reduce their ornamental value. The most common animal pests are scale insects, aphids, shield bugs, mealybugs, mites, thrips and caterpillars. The most common fungal diseases are various leaf spots, rust and powdery mildew. When making a diagnosis, if you are unsure, consult an expert. Similarly, the chemical preparations used against individual diseases are constantly changing, and it is necessary to obtain information from specialised gardening shops or consult an expert.

# The Lake

## Summer

During this period, mainly plants that are under water are cut. The remains must be removed from the pond. You can also remove algae using a bamboo stick, around which the algae will wrap like cotton candy. The pump should be in operation for at least three hours a day. If the water temperature is 25°C, the water may become cloudy, so it is a good idea to leave the pump on at night.

## Autumn

Autumn is an important period mainly because it is necessary to prevent nutrients from accumulating in the water. When the leaves fall, the pond should be covered with a protective net. Water lilies and underwater plants should be cut back to the roots, and those on the surface of the water should be cut back to the surface.

## Winter

During the dormant season, the pond also rests. Ice forms on the surface and it is necessary to cut off all parts of the plants that are above the surface. If there are fish in the pond, holes are made in the ice to allow oxygen to pass through.

## Lawn care instructions

In spring, immediately after the top layer of soil has dried, thoroughly clean the lawn surface (remove all fallen or blown leaves, branches and stones). It is important to aerate the lawn by raking or scarifying to a depth of 3-5 mm and rolling out any uneven areas (always do this in spring and autumn).

## Irrigation

Watering is an essential part of maintaining a beautiful, lush lawn.

### First watering:

- A large amount of water is needed to saturate a 10-15 cm layer of soil.

### First week after establishment:

- Keep the lawn constantly moist (except in rainy and cold weather).
- Do not walk on the lawn and, if necessary, roll it and water it more frequently in smaller amounts 2-3 times a day.


### Second week:

- Reduce watering by half.

### Third week:

- Increase the amount and reduce the frequency of irrigation.





With a newly established lawn with automatic irrigation, it is important to monitor the condition of the entire lawn. If the condition of the lawn is not monitored, some areas may not be watered and, conversely, some may be overwatered, causing the lawn to dry out or rot.

At high temperatures, the lawn suffers especially next to hot paving, requiring increased amounts of irrigation water. The lawn must not dry out. A healthy and well-rooted lawn is usually watered with 15-20 mm per 1 m<sup>2</sup> every 3-4 days. Conversely, at high temperatures such as 28°C, water more frequently. The ideal time for watering is between 4 and 7 a.m. **When there is a lack of water, the colour changes from bright green to grey-green.**

## **Mowing**

It is an integral part of a dense and beautifully green lawn. For lawns established by **sodding (carpet lawns)**, the first mowing is carried out after 1 week at a maximum height of 6-8 cm (skip watering the lawn for 1 day before this operation) and shorten by a maximum of one third of the height.

In the summer months, we recommend keeping the lawn at the upper height limit (4 cm) and reducing the mowing frequency, as the lawn does not grow as vigorously during hot days as it does in spring or autumn.

The last mowing should be done in November (depending on weather conditions), and fallen leaves and other organic debris should also be removed. Dead grass must be removed from the lawn just before the onset of winter to prevent fungal diseases during the winter.

During prolonged frosts without snow cover, do not walk on the lawn or put any weight on it to prevent damage. This also applies during thaws, when you should not walk on the lawn to avoid trampling and unevenness in the softened soil.

Throughout the year, it is essential to monitor the health of the lawn and consult experts in case of disease, pests or aggressive weeds. **Symptoms:** change in lawn colour (rusty, brown to yellow) and shape (formation of circles 5-40 cm in diameter). **Always water the entire lawn thoroughly before mowing.**

## **Fertilisation**

We recommend applying fertilizer four times during the growing season. **In spring (March–April)**, apply ammonium nitrate with lime or dolomite at a maximum rate of 20 g per 1 m<sup>2</sup>. This promotes faster regeneration of grass growth and colour.



- **April - May:** use 30 g of NPK fertilizer per 1 m<sup>2</sup> Scotts Standard, Nitrophoska suprem 20+5+10, Travcerit and others.
- **August:** 30 g of NPK fertilizer per 1 m<sup>2</sup>.
- **September - October** - NPK fertilizer with low nitrogen content, e.g. Scotts preparation for winter, Entec Nitroka NPK fertilizer 12-0-18, autumn Travcerit and others.

Furthermore, we adjust unsuitable soil reactions by liming in autumn (optimum pH 5.5 - 6.5) using limestone or dolomitic limestone (which also contains magnesium). Use applicators or spreaders for industrial fertilisers. After fertilisation, it is important to water generously, especially in the summer months.

**Lawn sowing** is carried out in spring or autumn, when the lawn germinates in 7-30 days, depending on the seed type.

After sowing, enrich the soil with a starter dose of fertilizer .....

The first mowing follows after most of the grass has grown to a height of 10-12 cm; the mowing height must not be less than 6-7 cm. After the lawn has grown together, reduce the mowing height to 3.5-5 cm.

After uneven seed germination, empty spots should be filled with new seeds, but using the same mixture as for the original lawn. Maintenance of a seeded lawn in subsequent years is the same as for a lawn established by scarification.

As with seeded lawns, we must also expect broadleaf weeds (plants) to grow on lawns established by mulching. This cannot be avoided.

**Method of protection:** Regular mowing will remove annual weeds (occurring after windblown seeds from neighbouring unkempt gardens or fields), or a more suitable method of weed control can be used, such as selective herbicides, e.g. Bofix, Chvastox and others.

## Contact us



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