

Growing Fantastic Flowers

How often should flowers be watered and fertilized? There is no hard-and-fast rule that works for all flower types. Needs vary from flower to flower.

Providing too much or too little water (especially during long, hot dry summers) can result in less-than-satisfactory blooms. Consider these guidelines:

- Annuals have shallow roots, so they dry out more quickly. Keep soil moist, but not too soggy.
- Perennials need less water. It's OK to let the soil dry out between waterings.

Proper feeding will give your flowers the energy to produce bloom after bloom. Here are some tips for feeding success:

- Perennials should be fertilized once they start blooming.
- Annuals do best when fertilized as they're getting established and again during mid season.
- If leaves are yellowing, this often means that fertilizer is needed.
- If a granular or powdered fertilizer is used, it should be watered in after application.



With the right watering and fertilizing practices, you can look forward to a fantastic flower display this year!

Who Remembers Hurricane Ike? Your Lawn Does...

Last fall the Miami Valley experienced some of the worst wind damage in recent memory. On September 14, 2008, thousands of our trees were uprooted, severely topped or stripped of limbs courtesy of Mother Nature.

The damage was done, the debris has been cleaned up, and the underlying grass plants have discovered a new home. Turf that was grown under full shade with adequate moisture may now be in direct sunlight. These turfgrass plants have adapted to their shade environment over the last 20 to 30 years or more. They will now be subject to one of our typical long, hot dry summers.

Now for the good news, some turfgrass species are shade and sun tolerant. They will survive this summer with adequate rainfall or watering. If your trees were uprooted or removed, there will be no more root competition between the turf and trees for nutrients and water. We've been provided with a good opportunity to upgrade through overseeding more drought- and insect-resistant turfgrass species.

In conclusion, if you've lost part or all of your shade trees in the lawn, we need to monitor those areas. Your route manager can help you with timing and plant selection. We typically recommend fall for seed and sod repair. Smaller jobs can be done in the late spring if you can commit to watering during the summer months. Let's just hope that the next time a hurricane makes its way to the Miami Valley, we get the rain and not the wind!

Mark T. Johnson



A TESTIMONIAL

"Cody and Jordan were very kind and helpful. I am continually impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of your employees. Jason is great! He is very accessible for any questions I might have and I always appreciate it."

– Customer #19448



Becoming Eco-Friendly

As more and more people embrace the "Green Movement" by taking steps to reduce their negative effects on the environment, many are looking for ways to practice "eco-friendly" gardening. The following tips from the Environmental Protection Agency are sure to make any property more kind to the environment we all share.

- Untreated wood and leaf waste can be shredded into chip form for use as a mulch in planting beds and around trees and shrubs.
- Make a point of recycling used oil and tires from lawn and garden equipment.
- Keep lawn mowers and other gardening equipment in efficient operating condition by performing regular maintenance according to the owner's manual. This will help to save fuel and protect air quality.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn or use a mulching mower. The clippings will return nutrients to the soil instead of taking up space in landfills.
- Try to use garden tools that are made from recycled content. Examples include garden hoses made from old tires, stepping stones made from old glass bottles, and hand tools made from recycled plastic.
- If you want to replace a plant that's still healthy, consider donating it to a community garden or school. Or, offer it to a neighbor.

Green Corner

