

plant care
GUIDE



Landscape Calendar

JANUARY

- Remove heavy snow (not ice,) from trees and shrubs being careful not to break branches.
- Monitor trees and shrubs for deer, rabbit, or rodent damage. Apply repellent if necessary.
- Prune trees and shrubs (except maple, walnut, birch, and elm.-late fall).
- Apply an anti-desiccant (Wilt-Pruf) to broad leaf evergreens to prevent windburn as needed.
- Keep salt away from plants.
- Plan for a new or renovated garden, walk, or patio. Call Hinsdale Nurseries' Landscape Dept. to create a plan.

FEBRUARY

- Re-apply anti-desiccants to broad leaf evergreens if temperature is above freezing.
- Prune fruit trees, grape vines, and berry plants. Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs.
- Monitor trees and shrubs for deer, rabbit, or rodent damage..ongoing. Apply a repellent as needed.

MARCH

- Cut back ornamental grasses and perennials before new growth emerges.
- Begin general spring cleanup. Rake out beds of leaves, twigs, and debris.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubs before new growth emerges (ie. Hydrangea, roses).
- Fertilize trees and shrubs before they leaf out.
- Apply a dormant oil spray to ornamentals susceptible to scale (ie. Euonymus or crabapple).
- Transplant trees and shrubs while in dormancy.
- As temperatures warm it is ideal to apply a pre-emergent crab grass control to lawn.
- Remove tree wrap and other winter protection.
- Edge walks, beds, drives and curbs to start season.
- Freshen up beds and tree rings with a new application of mulch or compost 2"- 4" deep.
- Finalize contracts for spring landscape work.
- De-thatch lawn.

APRIL

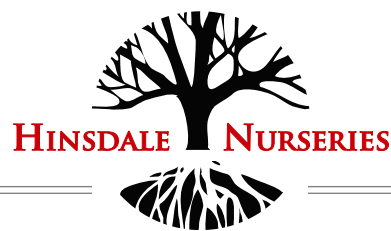
- Deadhead spring bulbs after bloom. Leave foliage intact.
- Divide and move perennials as needed. Use pre-emergent weed killer in beds. Hand weed as needed.
- Apply a fungicide on crabs just as leaves begin to emerge to control apple scab. Repeat every 2 weeks or as needed.
- Plant new gardens, trees, shrubs, and perennials. Visit Hinsdale Nurseries' large selection.
- Overseed lawn.
- Begin mowing turf at 2.5" mower blade height.

MAY

- Plant annuals after the danger of frost. Average date of last frost is May 15.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Apply a broadleaf herbicide to lawn to control weeds.
- Fertilize turf areas and shrub beds.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Hand weed flower beds.

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Table of Contents



Trees and Shrubs	Page 2
Watering	
Transplant Shock	
Pruning	
Fertilization	
Winter Preparation	
Ground Covers	Page 6
Watering	
Weed Control	
Pruning	
Winter Preparation	
New Seed Care	Page 8
Germination	
Watering	
Lawn Maintenance	
Sod Lawn Care	Page 10
Watering	
Sod Maintenance	
Fertilization	
Mulch Benefits	Page 12
Why Compost	Page 14
Perennials Basic Maintenance	Page 15

*This Plant Care Guide was created by Hinsdale Nurseries
as a informative brochure to you, our valued customer.*

*Visit us at our sales yard, 7200 S. Madison, Willowbrook, IL 60527,
or on the web at www.HinsdaleNurseries.com*

Trees & Shrubs

❧ WATERING ❧

Trees and shrubs have various water needs depending on the plant, its age, the soil, sun, wind, pollution, air temperatures and rainfall. An even and thorough soaking after planting will ensure moisture penetration to all roots.

To soak evenly and thoroughly to a 6” to 8” depth, let water run through a hose around the base of the plant at a slow trickle. Usually about half an hour for shrubs and an hour for trees is sufficient, depending on the soil type. To check the soil moisture, sink a stick about six to eight inches into the ground at the base of the plant, then remove it. If the stick comes out clean the soil is still too dry, so continue watering around the root ball.

Watering should be done approximately every six or seven days. Keep in mind that overwatering is just as harmful as underwatering. (Underwatering-sprinkling the soil lightly with the hose-will only wet the topmost layer of soil, and will not allow roots to develop.) Pay attention to weather conditions. Adjust accordingly the amount of water your plants get to ensure successful establishment in your garden. Deep, infrequent watering is best.

❧ TRANSPLANT SHOCK ❧

Some plants will suffer from a condition known as transplant shock, which may occur due to a loss of roots when the plant is dug out of the nursery and moved to your garden. Adequate care may not eliminate transplant shock, but it will help to decrease the symptoms and aid in the plants' recovery.

Some symptoms to watch for: loss or sparse distribution of leaves, smaller than normal leaf size, a lack or shortened period of flowering, faded leaf color, twig dieback and overall reduced growth. Severity of plant shock will depend on the time of year the plant is moved to your garden and the plant's type, size or age. In any case, transplant shock symptoms should disappear as the plant adjusts to its new surroundings. This can take from

✧ PRUNING ✧

Pruning enhances the natural shape of your trees and shrubs by evening out any areas that have grown faster than others. Other reasons to prune are to remove dead or damaged wood, or to train the plant to a desired shape. Detailed pruning to achieve a specific shape, or on a very large specimen, may require the help of a professional arborist. Below are some basic guidelines for maintenance pruning that you may perform yourself.

- ✧ When possible, remove branches where they meet the trunk. Pruning sealer should not be applied, it is better to let the tree heal naturally.
- ✧ Newly planted trees and shrubs should be cut back by one third. This will compensate for the root loss and enhance the establishment and growth of the plants. If your landscape was planted by Hinsdale Nurseries, this will already have been done for you.
- ✧ Prune spring-flowering plants, such as forsythias, lilacs, crabapples and viburnums, just after flowering. Most bloom on old wood, or the previous year's growth.
- ✧ Prune out any dead wood. A dead stem will appear brown when scratched with knife or fingernail. If it is green, the stem is still alive.
- ✧ Remove branches that cross or rub together-these branches may lead to damage of one or both branches. Remove the least desirable branch. Some species (i.e. *Amelanchier*) are prone to having numerous main branches crossing each other. Be careful not to prune out too many branches and harm the plant. Guideline—no more than one third per year.

Fertilization

FERTILIZATION

Trees, like other plants, require the essential elements in fertilizer for growth. Fertilizer can improve soil, increase plant vigor, induce greener leaves and even strengthen a plant's resistance to certain insects and diseases. Too much fertilizer, however, can be damaging.

Stock planted by Hinsdale Nurseries will have been fertilized at the time of planting. We use a slow-release formula that should see your plants through their first year. Should you wish to fertilize after this time, the following tips will help you select and use the right fertilizer:

- ✿ For general plant maintenance, a balanced (10-10-10) formulation is recommended. Follow application and dilution instructions on the label.
- ✿ Some broadleaf evergreens, such as rhododendron, will benefit from a more acidic soil. For these plants there is a ready-made solution called Muracid, which can be found in garden centers.
- ✿ Choose a formula high in phosphorus to encourage bud development in flowering plants, to foster root growth or to harden plants off for the winter. To enhance bulb blooming, choose a formula high in potassium. A high nitrogen ratio (20-10-10) is found in RapidGro, which is designed to help plants form new leaves and branches.
- ✿ Spring is the best time to apply fertilizer because plants are actively growing. Application in the fall encourages new growth just before winter, often resulting in frost damage to these softer tips. To avoid this problem, fertilizer applied after midsummer should be a slow release nitrogen that is rich in phosphorus.

❧ WINTER PREPARATION ❧

All trees and shrubs sold by Hinsdale Nurseries are zone 5 winter hardy. The following steps will ensure your plants' continued health throughout the cold months.

Evergreens should be well watered throughout the fall until the first frost to prevent excessive needle drop or browning. Most evergreens, particularly arborvitae and some pines, will show large amounts of browning in the middle of the tree around the trunk. This is a natural thinning that decreases the stress of harsh winter conditions. It may or may not occur annually and is not a sign of sickness or disease.

Broadleaf evergreens (rhododendrons, hollies, boxwoods) benefit from the application of an anti-transpirant such as WiltPruf to reduce the amount of moisture lost through the foliage.

Deciduous trees and shrubs should be watered in and mulched before the ground freezes. This will protect roots over the winter and aid limb and foliage development in the spring. Oak leaves or shredded bark should be applied around the base of the roots in fall (be careful not to bury the trunk where it touches the soil or rot may set in.) In spring, spread the leaves or bark in planting beds.

Tree guards or chicken wire may be needed for some plants that are prone to animal damage, such as hemlock, rhododendron, viburnum, kerria, and roses. Tree wraps will help protect trunks of smaller trees from deer and insects and may prevent some species from splitting in the early spring sun.

Groundcovers

Groundcovers are quite versatile in the landscape. They tolerate adverse conditions, and once established require little care. They are problem solvers that can often thrive in places where lawn will not grow. They perform well in shady areas and under trees, and are excellent erosion controllers on steep banks. The following information should help you maintain healthy ground covers.

WATERING

Groundcovers are basically low maintenance, but they do require regular care for the first few years. Once they are established, they require less maintenance than lawn.

A ground cover's water needs vary, just as with trees and shrubs, depending on the plant, its age, the soil, season, temperature, sun, wind and pollution. Most of the ground covers that Hinsdale Nurseries offers, such as vinca, pachysandra, ivy, euonymus, and sedum, should receive an even and thorough soaking to a 6 to 8 inch depth after planting to ensure moisture penetration to all roots. To check the soil moisture level, insert a stick about six to eight inches into the ground, then remove it. If the stick comes out clean the soil is still too dry, so continue watering.

Watering of ground covers should be done every couple of days—more frequently during the first few weeks after planting. Keep in mind that overwatering is just as harmful as underwatering. (Underwatering—sprinkling the soil lightly with the hose—will only wet the top most layer of soil, and will not allow roots to develop.) Pay attention to weather conditions, and adjust amount of watering accordingly to ensure successful establishment in your garden. After roots are established, 1” per week is sufficient.

WEED CONTROL

Some plants are slow to become established in your garden. Your ground cover may take a year or longer to fill in, which can be very inviting to weeds. Once weeds have invaded your ground cover, getting them out becomes increasingly difficult. The best method of weed removal is by hand. If you choose to use a herbicide, read the label carefully because it could be detrimental not only to the weeds, but also to your ground cover. To minimize weed invasion, plant groundcovers on a tighter spacing for quicker establishment.

✧ PRUNING ✧

Many ground covers are aggressive and may need to be restrained, depending on the nature of your landscape and your preference. A formal landscape will require more pruning than an informal one. Aggressive ground covers include certain spreading junipers and some species of sedum, ivy, etc.

Detailed pruning to achieve a specific shape may require professional help, and you may wish to consult Hinsdale Nurseries. Below are guidelines for ground cover maintenance that you can perform yourself.

- ✧ Prune ground covers in early spring so new growth will quickly cover the bare stems. Avoid late autumn pruning because new growth will appear just before winter, often resulting in frost damage to new growing tips.
- ✧ Use hand pruners to remove dead branches and damaged tips. A dead stem will appear brown when scratched with a knife or fingernail. A live stem will appear green.
- ✧ Prune off the damaged parts of pachysandra or other herbaceous evergreens to rid them of winter burn in early spring.
- ✧ Shearing ground covers such as vinca, pachysandra, ivy, euonymus and sedum will help keep them dense. Hostas usually do not require pruning.

✧ WINTER PREPARATION ✧

All ground covers sold by Hinsdale Nurseries are zone 5 winter hardy. A few steps will ensure their continued health through the cold months.

Evergreen ground covers should be well watered before the first frost to prevent excessive needle drop or browning. It is common for some evergreen ground covers to show a brown or purple color throughout the winter. This is a natural process that decreases the stress of harsh winter conditions. It may or may not occur annually and is not a sign of sickness or disease.

New Seed Care

❧ 1. GERMINATION ❧

Many factors affect germination. Cool weather delays sprouting, lack of moisture will prevent sprouting, and over-watering and high temperatures can induce disease. Proper care and maintenance are essential to the establishment of a healthy lawn. Your lawn will germinate, mature and become established over an eight week period. Here is an idea of how a lawn should progress:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ❧ <i>First and second weeks</i> | a few seedlings (mostly ryegrass) begin to appear. |
| ❧ <i>Third and fourth weeks</i> | bluegrasses germinate and begin to grow. |
| ❧ <i>Fifth and sixth weeks</i> | all grasses should have germinated, and begun to thicken. |
| ❧ <i>Seventh and eighth weeks</i> | grasses fill in and are established. |

NOTE: AVOID WALKING ON THE LAWN UNTIL IT IS WELL-ESTABLISHED.

❧ 2. WATERING ❧

Watering is a key factor in establishing your lawn. The seeded area should be kept moist but not wet. Water the area until a slight puddling occurs. This will help develop a deep strong root system. Watering frequency should be systematically reduced over several weeks time so the roots can strengthen and adapt to more normal conditions. **A good rule of thumb is one inch of water per week.** Frequency also depends on the weather, soil type, seed type and rainfall. Be cautious not to over-water your lawn (large puddles in the lawn,) or under-water (dried out, cracking, and brown turf.)

❧ 3. LAWN MAINTENANCE ❧

As your lawn fills in and becomes established, it will need regular care. When the grass is about 2” tall, begin to mow weekly. Raise mower to standard cutting height when lawn is established. 2.5” is a good height during spring and fall. 3” is best in the hot summer months. Weed control is best achieved with a combination of herbicides and hand removal. Fertilization can take place after the first cutting at one half the manufacturer’s suggested rate for established turf. The following year you may fertilize at the recommended rate.

Hinsdale Nurseries cannot and will not assume any responsibility for any depressions which occur, either by traffic or by hidden sub-grade conditions. Sometimes when watering your lawn, leaks may appear in your basement foundation. This is not the fault or liability of Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc.

Sod Lawn Care

Full establishment of a sod lawn takes about four weeks. During this period remember the following rules:

- 1) No foot traffic, pets or machinery allowed except while cutting.
- 2) Do not allow sod and undersoil to dry out. They must be kept soaked at all times

WATERING

Soaking the sod keeps it from shrinking at the seams. It will also prevent burning and brown discoloration. If any browning appears, water immediately!

Soaking the lawn through the sod to the undersoil requires a lot of water. Place lawn sprinklers to ensure that the lawn will be thoroughly soaked. Adjust water pressure to achieve the ideal wedge-shaped soak. Be sure to take rainfall into account as it may require less manual watering. Also, remember to obey any water restrictions set by your village.

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Days 1 - 6

The first seven days after your sod has been installed are critical to its establishment. Stay off the sod and keep it well watered.

Day 7

Allow the lawn to dry for one to two days. It should be damp and able to support your weight.

Day 8 or 9

Once the lawn is damp-dry it should receive its first cutting. Set your mower at the highest setting. Cut the entire area, whether it appears to require it or not. Be sure to use a grass catcher to collect the clippings. Immediately after cutting, soak the sod again and continue the soaking process for another seven-day period.

✿ **Days 15 or 16**

Repeat the cutting procedure allowing the sod to damp-dry beforehand. After the second cutting, examine the entire area for depressions. These holes, if any, are usually caused by footsteps of animals or people, settling of gas or water mains or filling of deep air pockets caused by poor backfilling during original construction. To repair, gently roll back the overlaying sod, fill the hole with good soil to the proper grade, replace the sod and treat the area as freshly laid sod by keeping it well watered.

✿ **Days 21 - 29**

Water the lawn heavily two or three times weekly and cut weekly. Remember to keep all traffic off the lawn for the 30 days.

✿ **Day 30+**

Approximately 30 days after the installation, reduce watering to deep, infrequent applications, totaling 1" to 1.5" per week. Mow weekly.

❧ **FERTILIZATION** ❧

Fertilization should be performed annually to maintain a healthy, green lawn.

Hinsdale Nurseries cannot and will not assume any responsibility for any depressions which occur, either by traffic or by hidden sub-grade conditions. Sometimes when watering your lawn, leaks may appear in your basement foundation. This is not the fault or liability of Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc.

Mulch Benefits

An application of shredded hardwood bark mulch around your trees and shrubs creates numerous benefits. Mulch conserves moisture in the soil and helps to lessen temperature fluctuations, thus protecting and nurturing the roots. It also serves as a light barrier to open soil, aiding in the prevention of weed seed germination. A ring of mulch around the base of your trees makes it unnecessary to mow against the tree trunk, preventing bark damage. The mulch should be applied to form a saucer around the tree with the mulch being thick (3"-4") at the edge of the ring and thin (1/2"-1") next to the trunk. Correct mulching does not include piling mulch directly up against the trunk as is commonly seen. This only promotes certain insect and disease problems.

The mulch ring diameter is always a question. The answer is debatable, but in general, the bigger the better. Ideally, the mulched area should continue well beyond the tree canopy. This allows the tree roots to capitalize on water, nutrients and air space without competition from turf. Most times this is not practical with trees in the home landscape, so tree rings are commonly 4'-8' in diameter. We recommend shredded hardwood bark mulch for the following reasons:

- ✿ *Erosion Control* The shredded material knits together to form a single layer.
- ✿ *Organic* Non-toxic and adds nutrients to soil through decomposition.
- ✿ *Long lasting* Native hardwoods of Red and White Oak decompose slowly.
- ✿ *Economical* Available locally compared to exotics (Eucalyptus, Cocoa Shells, Cypress).
- ✿ *Color* Dark brown color blends in well with most landscapes.

Does mulch attract termites and carpenter ants? Here's what Dr. Rex Bastian, Ph.D., The Care of Trees, has to say about mulch in regards to pests.

In the upper Midwest, termites are seldom found living outside of structures because most winters are too cold for termites to survive except when associated with heated structures. For this reason, it is highly unlikely that termites would infest any type of wood mulching material used in the landscape.

Carpenter ants do not eat wood. They use decaying or solid wood as a base to build their tunnels in. A pile of wood chips does not have the structure necessary for carpenter ants to build a tunnel in. Be careful not to stack firewood near a building foundation. Carpenter ant colonies will establish themselves in log piles.

Why Compost?

Research has indicated that about 80% of all plant problems are a result of poor soil (Patterson et al. 1980). There is a direct correlation between good soil producing good roots. The ideal soil is a rich, dark, crumbly loam that is at least 12 inches deep. The soil should be made up of about 25 percent water, 50 percent solid particles (45 percent minerals and 5 percent organics,) and 25 percent air (Duthie. 2000.) Unfortunately, Metropolitan Chicago soils are predominately heavy clay and poorly drained. On-site construction compounds the problem as well as improper bed preparation or the lack thereof. The most critical time to have good soil is while plants are establishing themselves. Perennials can double or even triple in size in the first season if the beds in which they are growing are correctly prepared with sufficient organic matter (DiSabato-Aust. 1998.)

One of the best soil amendments is compost. Compost improves soil texture and structure and provides three main benefits: It will increase soil porosity, allowing for percolation of air and water; it will increase water retention; and it creates a microclimate for beneficial soil organisms, including worms (Duthie. 2000.)

Compost can be anything organic in nature: grass clippings, shredded leaves, coffee grounds, non-animal kitchen scraps, peat moss, partially decomposed bark and mushroom compost are some available forms.

Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc. uses compost called 1-Step Mulch and Soil Conditioner. It is a blend of organic materials (pine products blended with a complex of bark-based components; pH balanced chemicals for Northern soils; proprietary 'Bark Rite' fertilizers and Mycorrhizae.) As it is partially decomposed, the damage of high-salts is significantly reduced. The addition of this amendment to your planting beds is a regular practice at Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc. Our goal is to produce top quality results and protect your investment.

In addition to soil preparation, 1-Step can be used as mulch for annual and perennial beds, groundcovers, and landscape beds. A layer of 2"-3" is recommended initially; then depending on maintenance, watering, and weather severity, repeat mulch application one to two years apart. Remember that assuring adequate drainage should be a part of every landscape planting.

❧ BASIC CARE ❧

- ❧ **Soil preparation** is key to a great perennial bed. We recommend digging down and loosening the soil to a depth of 6"-12". Add compost to your soil by roto-tilling or turning with a shovel. Well-drained soil is a must for perennials and the compost will help open up the soil. If possible, mound the planting beds to avoid low areas where water can sit and cause root rot.
- ❧ **Mulching** is recommended at a depth of 2" to help keep weeds down and conserve moisture during a hot summer. Compost or shredded bark may be used.
- ❧ **Fertilizing** may be done in spring with a 10-10-10 fertilizer if desired. Most perennial gardens do not need to be fertilized if compost was used to establish the bed. Additional fertilization is not necessary except for heavy blooming perennials such as daylilies, roses and astilbes.
- ❧ **Watering** is key to establishing your perennials after planting. Check them every other day for the first month. Once established, your perennials will need an inch of water per week. Morning watering is best because it will reduce the chance for disease and evaporation. When transplanting or dividing, water the night before. If possible, keep the foliage dry when watering to prevent disease. Water your plants through a dry fall but do not over water, as your plants need less moisture as they shut down for the year. Your plants will be tougher going into the winter with the proper moisture.

Perennials

❧ ADDITIONAL CARE ❧

- ❧ **Deadheading** - removing spent blooms as they fade - will tidy the look of your garden and often promotes re-blooming.
- ❧ **Pruning** a leggy plant back by one third or to the basal foliage will encourage new growth and extend the life of your garden during the late summer.
- ❧ **Division** every 4 years may be needed to acquire the air movement needed around your plants to prevent disease. Overcrowding can cause the leaves of your perennials to stay wet and in turn cause leaf spot. Division can also give new life to an older plant. One sign that division is needed is when a dead space develops in the center of the plant.
- ❧ **Weeding** is an on going project. Heavy weeding will be needed in late spring, then on an as needed basis. Pre-emergent herbicides can be used in early spring to keep the weeds down.
- ❧ **Winter preparation** is not extensive if you selected your perennials correctly. Most perennials can be cut back to keep the garden clean and neat for the winter. Many give winter interest and can be left up until early spring. It is best to cut these back as you see new growth emerging. Most perennials you will cut to the base, woody perennials are best left until they start leafing out, and then cut them back by one third.



Caring for plants can bring pleasure and joy into your life and beauty to your surroundings. Hinsdale Nurseries is pleased to offer fine plant material, expert installation and maintenance services and knowledgeable advice.

Call us at 630-323-1411, or visit www.hinsdalenurseries.com to sign up for our email newsletter or obtain our current retail catalog.



Landscape Calendar



continued from inside front cover

JUNE

- Water trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials, as needed, minimum an inch a week during periods of drought.
- Monitor ornamentals for disease and pest problems and treat as needed.
- Apply white grub control to turf areas if needed.
- Fertilize annuals to encourage continued blooms.
- Re-edge walks, curbs, patios, and planting beds.
- Plan for new patio and walk with Hinsdale Nurseries' Landscape Department.

JULY

- Continue watering turf and ornamentals as needed.
- Prune hedges and summer flowering shrubs as needed.
- Continue mowing turf, raising mower blade to 3".
- Build new patio and walks

AUGUST

- Treat turf for grubs and Japanese beetle larvae.
- Continue mowing turf.
- Apply turf fertilization.
- Aug. 15th start Fall lawn seeding..

SEPTEMBER

- Plant mums and pansies for fall color.
- Core aerate lawn and overseed.
- Edge walks, drives, curbs, patios, and planting beds.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials from Hinsdale Nurseries' large selection.
- Sept. 15th end Fall lawn seeding, (weather can adjust seeding season).
- Adjust mower blade height to 2.5".

OCTOBER

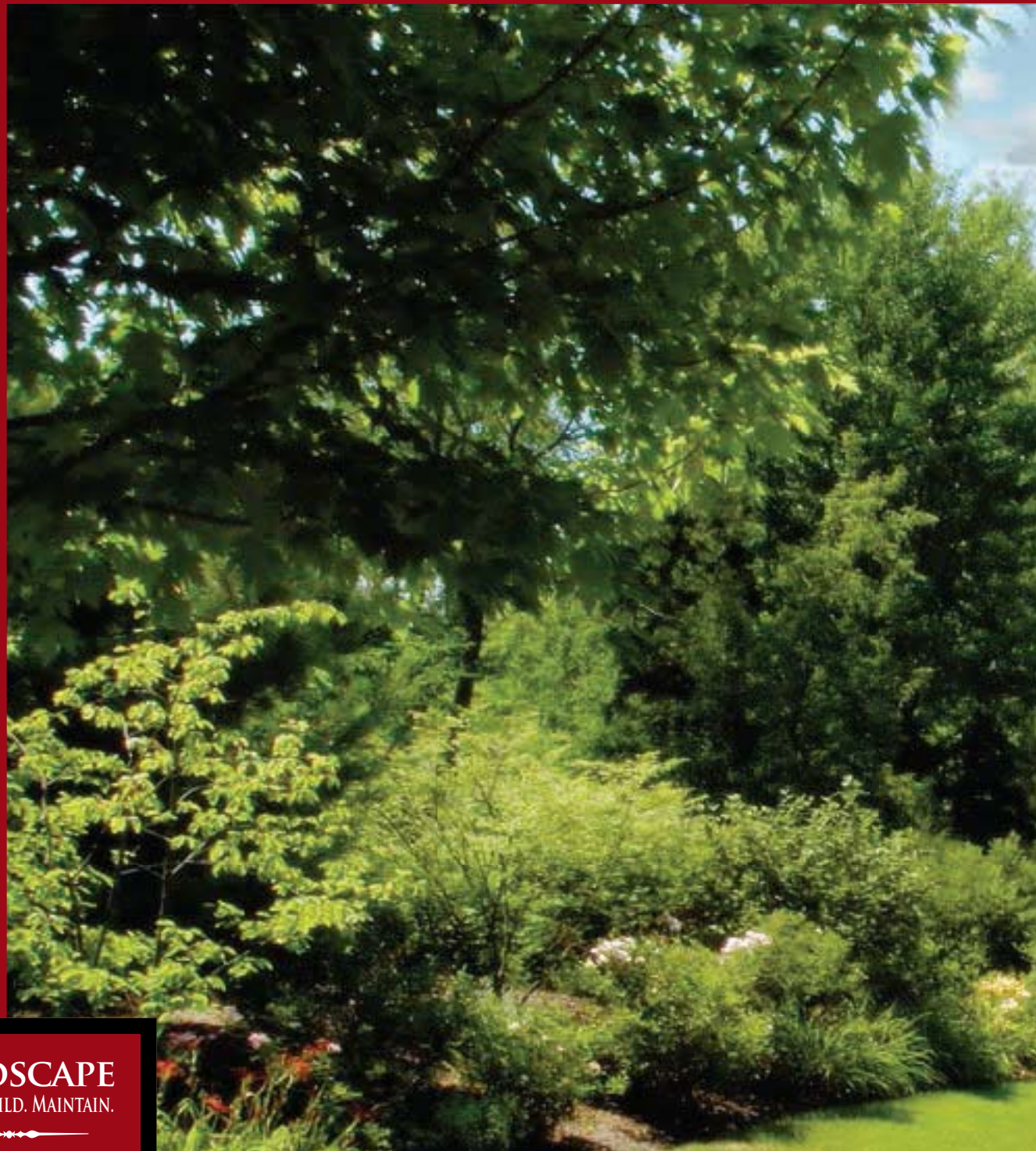
- Cut back perennials for winter, unless provides winter interest.
- Begin fall clean up.
- Plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs.
- Continue leaf pick-up from lawns

NOVEMBER

- Spring bulb planting.
- Apply winter protection to roses and perennials.
- Continue fall clean-up, leaf removal from turf and beds.
- Plant trees and shrubs as available.
- Deeply water trees, shrubs, and evergreens before ground freezes.
- Cage plants susceptible to rabbit damage.

DECEMBER

- Remove heavy snow from ornamentals as needed.



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