



TOP TIPS

HOW TO BEST CARE FOR YOUR
NEW FLEMING'S GARDEN



WATERING YOUR GARDEN

Water is essential to establishing your garden in the early days.

Irrigation Installed

If your new garden has been installed with an irrigation system, please consider purchasing a simple timer which you can attach to the tap.

The timer will enable you to ensure your garden receives the right amount of water each week without having to lift a finger yourself.

You should check your sprinkler system weekly to ensure there are no leaks or blockages which could distort the amount of water being released to the garden.

Also, be aware that the timer will go no matter what – so if nature assists us with a lovely down-pour – simply turn your timer off that day.

If you elect not to place a timer on your system – you need to ensure you establish a weekly routine to water your garden – perhaps it is as simple as turning the water on each morning while you eat breakfast and turn it off before you leave for work – or turn it on before you take the dog out for a walk and turn it off on your return. New gardens require regular water up to three times a week – or more, during hot weather – or less, during wet weather.

Remember – the plants in your new garden are used to regular water from the nursery – up to three times a day in some instances.



No Irrigation

If your garden is installed without irrigation you will need to ensure you have some simple tools on hand to water your garden. The easiest is a hose and a small dome sprinkler that offers a constant release of water.

How much water

Again, please be aware of the weather conditions – if rain is about there is less urgency to keep your garden hydrated. Likewise, if it is dry for a few days it will be time to give your new garden a drink.

A simple rule of thumb is that when water stops being absorbed into the ground and starts to sit above – there is more than enough water – time to move on to the next area.

Alternatively, in garden beds, a few minutes of well-directed, hand-held watering is usually enough or five to ten minutes with a dome sprinkler depending on weather.

WEEDING YOUR GARDEN

Weeding is often seen as a bit of a chore, but a great garden is usually well maintained and that is all about weed management.

Here are a few simple tips to keep your garden weed free:

- Weed when its wet. Weeding when the soil is damp ensures you'll be able to pull up the roots of these pesky plants easily.
- Pull up the plant with its roots as intact as much as possible – this will stop it from re-shooting.
- Be time efficient.... Simply spend 5-10 minutes a few times a week roaming through your garden and pulling out the weeds you see.
- Keep garden beds well mulched. Mulching retains moisture and doesn't let weeds thrive in your garden. Newspapers, scrapped leaves, and compost can be used. For better mulching, spread newspaper over the ground and cover it with a good layer of compost and leaves.



TURF CARE AND MAINTENANCE

These first two weeks are the most critical time for the turf. If possible, try to avoid watering at night as this can increase the risk of disease. Do not allow turf to dry out at any stage.

Give your new lawn at least 25mm of water within half an hour of installation. In the first week, turf may require watering three times per day in warmer or windy conditions. Water daily or more often, keeping turf moist until it is firmly rooted (about two weeks).

In the third and fourth week, less frequent and deeper watering should begin. Heavy watering, but not as often, encourages deep rooting. Ideally, you want the turf roots to get 100-150mm deep.

Weather conditions will dictate the amount and frequency of watering. Be certain that your new lawn has enough moisture to survive hot, dry or windy periods. Water areas near buildings more often where reflected heat dries the turf.

In autumn & winter, watering should dramatically reduce during these cooler months when we generally receive more rainfall and the turf goes into dormancy.






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