

For Best Results, A Personalized Maintenance Plan Is A Must

Time weathers everything, but the quantity and quality of care given to anything will make the difference in how a product weathers time.

To protect your investment, there are a number of tasks that must be completed by you or a professional. Juergen Partridge Limited can provide garden maintenance or support services. If you choose to care for your property on your own, please read the following.

Maintaining Your Plants

All plants require proper moisture levels and good nutrition to maintain their overall health and vibrancy. If an irrigation system was installed at the beginning of your job you will need to turn it back progressively as the plants and sod adjust to their new surroundings. Plants will die faster from overwatering than they will from too little water.

You may have some plants on your site that require some additional winter care to help boost their survival rate. Upright junipers, rhododendrons, roses, Japanese maples and various tender perennials are examples of plants that do require additional TLC to get them through a tough Canadian winter intact. As your plants begin to grow and expand, pruning them to help maintain their shape and place in the garden will become a necessity. Thanks to the runaway popularity of gardening, there are many wonderful books and informative websites ready to dispense wisdom and knowledge. To help with your research, we've listed some of our favourites for you. By consulting both the books and the Internet, you'll discover a multitude of useful information that will help you to achieve the results you desire. If you are looking to hire someone else to perform the maintenance your property requires, please be sure to take the time to choose carefully. This is SO important. Think of your plants as you would your own hair. Recovering from a terrible haircut can take a really long time. Why go through that pain? By doing your homework, you'll be well on your way to properly caring for your property.

Maintenance Considerations

What About Walkways and Patios?

Most of the walkways and patios that we construct contain a significant amount of concrete. Please note that the mortar and base used to construct a natural stone patio, interlocking stone, or patterned concrete cannot tolerate the use of salt and urea based products. Eventually, these ill-suited products will pit and compromise the integrity of your walkway or patio. What do we advise? We've found that the best way to manage winter, while protecting your walkway or patio, is to remove any overlying snow covering with a plastic shovel and bristle broom. Scattering sand can provide necessary grip. There could be times that calcium and urea products are your only choice to maintain a safe path for pedestrian traffic. For those times, we recommend placing the product on the targeted surface only long enough to remove any ice build up. Then it's best to remove the product as soon as its intended job is complete.

For more detailed information, please take a moment to consult the reference list provided below.

What About Water Features?

All water features, whether independent or associated with a pool, require a full winter shutdown. When preparing for winter, tasks such as removing any pumps, installing floaters to protect the basin from ice pressure and blowing out the lines must top your "to do" list. Fish in your pond? Then a full routine maintenance designed to protect them during the winter will also need to be completed. Juergen Partridge Limited's staff members are available to either assist you or complete the process in its entirety.

What About Landscape Lighting?

Landscape lighting can be accomplished by using either line voltage or low voltage wiring and fixtures. For anything other than timer adjustments or bulbs replacements, we recommend consulting the expertise of a lighting professional to service your lighting system. Of course, we're happy to assist you with this task.

What About All Of The Other Products?

For all other products we recommend either close scrutiny of the manufacturer's specifications or a continued relationship with installers of your major systems. Examples of these systems would be pools, irrigation systems and outdoor heating units.

Useful Reference Materials

Books

Canadian Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers by Dorling Kindersley
Any books authored by Mark Cullen or Louis Hole

Periodicals

Harrowsmith Magazine
Canadian Gardening
Acreage Life
This Old House

Recommended and Useful Websites

Cleaning of interlocking pavers:

www.icpi.org/homeowners
www.concretenetwork.com/concrete/maintaining/cleaning.htm

Cleaning of Concrete:

www.concretenetwork.com

Pond care, algae problems and winterizing of ponds:

www.dragonflylanding.ca

Pond maintenance and troubleshooting:

www.aquascapedesign.com/maintenance

Pruning:

www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/nursery/430-462/430-462.htm
www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/info_verte/arbre/taille.htm
www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/prun001.htm

Perennial care

www.gardening.about.com/od/maintenance/perennials_plants_careand_maintenance_of_flowering_perennials.htm
www.thegardenhelper.com/perennialplants.html perennial care