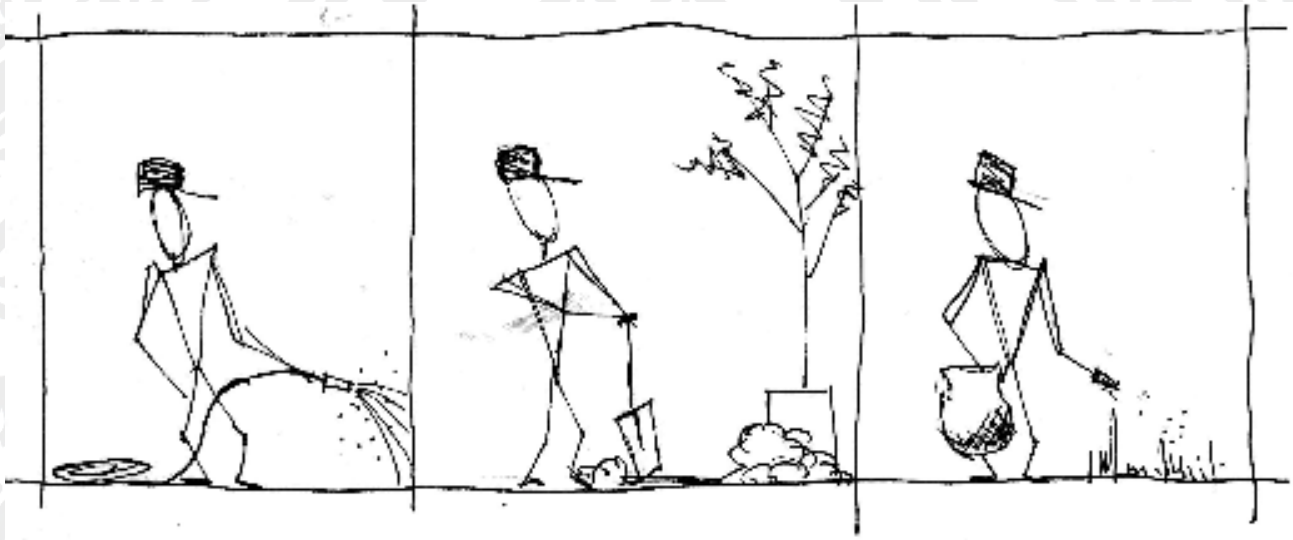
After Implementation and beyond



After Implementation and beyond

This stage of your garden development is most important and will determine your garden's longevity. Your garden, after implementation will be in a period of growth. Establishing your garden will help it to be more sustainable for the future and prepare it for periods of unfavourable conditions. It is important to provide the right care for your garden early on, by giving it the right amount of fundamentals, which provide good growth. These fundamentals include water, fertilizer and pest control.

Providing Liquids

Watering a newly planted garden well is the best way to establish your garden. Watering should be carried out regularly and for longer periods than normally needed. This will enable the roots to develop deeper and reach more permanently wetter areas thus reducing the plant dependence on artificial watering. Generally 25ml of water penetrates to a depth of 20cm in the soil profile. One needs to monitor the moisture situation constantly to avoid dry spots and water logged areas, as this can become detrimental to the plant material.

Dryer spots will stress the plant material leaving it susceptible to pests and stunted growth. If these periods are prolonged, death becomes a reality due to the plant's inability to reach permanently wetter areas. Dryer spots occur quickly especially in windier conditions or areas that receive full afternoon sun. Providing water to these areas is essential, preferably immediately, to reduce the affects of stress.

Water logging is a bigger problem for garden's situated inland, where the soil is more clay-like in nature. These types of soils retain more water than sandier soils and are often characterised with bad drainage. This bad drainage will contribute to water logging. The effects on the plant visually are similar to the stress caused by dry spots, thus ending in the same result. Fundamentally, water logging suffocates the plant material's roots and provides conditions conducive for rotting to occur.

As the garden matures and develops one needs not water as often. This is due to the plant material accessing more permanently wetter areas. As the rule of thumb goes, watering three times a week or less is adequate, provided the correct method of watering is used. (Less often for longer periods)

Providing Nutrition

After Implementation and beyond

Fertilization, at first, should not be a considerable burden. All good landscapers should have given you the option to improve the conditions of your soil. This is done by adding compost to help improve water retention, the soil's texture and nutrient content. If the soil's condition is remarkably barren, your landscaper should incorporate granular fertilizers from the start to provide a kick.

During the life span of your garden it is important to create a partial nutrient cycle. This would help to constantly improve water retention, the soil's texture and nutrient content, with the effect of keeping your garden stable in all conditions. Fortunately this is achieved be reducing the amount of organic material removed from the garden. Weeds and other larger materials must be removed, as this is untidy, but leaves and twigs are most suitable to mix into the soil to help create a partial nutrient cycle.

However, one needs to understand this is a partial cycle, which means one would need to intervene and manage the nutrient levels. Basically, one needs to fertilize often and watch out for signs of deficiencies. As the rule of thumb goes, usage of a granular fertilizer once a month is adequate. For plants from which green growth is required e.g. lawns, one would be inclined to use a fertilizer that has a higher concentration of Nitrogen (N). For flowers one needs a higher concentration of Potassium (K). When choosing your fertilizer, most granular fertilizers display a ratio of three numbers. These represent the concentration of the elements found within. The first digit represents the concentration of Nitrogen and the last, Potassium. Thus enabling you to choose the right fertilizer for the job.

Providing Resistance

Pest control should not be a problem if the plant material is healthy. Plant material becomes susceptible to pests when stressed and unhealthy. When an outbreak occurs one needs to treat the immediate problem of the pest, but also recondition the plant material to its optimum state.

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Maintenance Programme for three Month

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	*Watering*		*Watering*		*Watering*
Week 2	*Watering*		*Watering*		*Watering*
Week 3		*Watering*		*Watering*	
Week 4	*Weeding*	*Watering*		*Watering*	
Week 5	*Fertilizering*	*Watering*		*Watering*	
Week 6		*Watering*		*Watering*	
Week 7		*Watering*		*Watering*	
Week 8	*Weeding*	*Watering*		*Watering*	
Week 9	*Fertilizering*	*Watering*			
Week 10				*Watering*	
Week 11		*Watering*			
Week 12	*Weeding*			*Watering*	

Maintenance Period

Watering

- *25ml of water to penetrate soil to the depths of 200mm*
- *Deep watering of shrubs and trees by using reservoirs*

Fertilizers

- *For flowering plants and ground covers the use of 3:1:5*
- *For Trees, Shrubs and other plant with green growth to uses 5:1:3*
- *Fertilizers to be applied when ground is moist to prevent dry burn on foliage*

Weeding

- *Remove of annuls and perennials weeds*
- *Remove alien invasive plant*
- *Weeds to be removed from roots*
- *Weeds to be removed before flowering and seeding*