PLANT CARE QUICK-START CARD

Your First Year, at a Glance

A new-parent cheat sheet for your plants: they need you most in the first few months, then a little less each season. **This is a summary, not a replacement.** Full guidelines and all forms at **yepezlandscapetx.com** (warranty and legal purposes).

5 rules to live by

1. **Check the soil before you water.** Use a moisture meter (best for shrubs and trees) or your finger. Dry means water. Moist means wait.
2. **Water deep, not daily,** once plants are established. Frequent early watering is only for new plants.
3. **Water in the morning, at the roots,** not on the leaves.
4. **An inch or more of rain counts as a watering,** so skip your next one.
5. **Something look wrong?** Tell us **in writing within 7 days**, before you cut, spray, or replace anything.

While plants establish (warm weather, 80°F+)

Plant type	Weeks 1–2	Weeks 3–8	Month 3 until established	Established by
Perennials & annuals **How much:** ½″ in weeks 1–8, then 1¼–1½″	Daily to every other day at 90°F+; every 2–3 days below	Every 2–3 days	Once a week (at 100°F+, split into two)	About 3 months
Shrubs **How much:** 1″ in weeks 1–8 (1 gal per 3-gal shrub; 2–3 gal if larger), then 1¼–1½″	Every 2 days	Every 3–4 days	Once a week (at 100°F+, split into two)	5–7 months
Trees 2–3 gal per inch of trunk diameter	Every 2 days (at least 3× per week)	2–3× per week	June–Sept: 2–3× per week	1–2+ years

In cool months, water about half as often. Feeding is recommended, not required for your warranty; first granular at least 8 weeks after planting.

Once established: summer watering

Thirst group	Examples	Summer (Jun–Sep)	Water when…
Thirsty	Hydrangea, azalea, Japanese maple, canna, elephant ear, ferns, annuals	Every 3–4 days, about 1″ each time	Top 1–2″ is dry
Moderate	Crape myrtle, Burford holly, boxwood, Indian hawthorn, Knock Out rose, loropetalum, liriope, daylily	Once a week, 1¼–1½″ (at 100°F+, ¾–1″ twice a week)	Top 2–3″ is dry
Dry-Lover	Texas sage, yucca, agave, lantana, salvia, vitex, desert willow, juniper, muhly	Every 7–14 days	Top 3–4″ is dry
Trees	Any tree (2–3 gal per inch of trunk diameter)	Year 1: 2–3× per week. Year 2: 1–3× per week. Year 3+: every 2–3 weeks, only in extreme drought.	A screwdriver won't push in 6–8″

Your warranty in brief

- Plants may be covered for **30 days from installation**, subject to the supplying nursery's terms and the exclusions in your contract, and **only if you follow the Plant Care Guidelines**. Our workmanship is warranted for 6 months from completion.
- Work on installed areas by anyone other than YSL, beyond the routine care in the guidelines, needs our written OK first. Otherwise, it can void coverage.
- These are research-based recommendations that give your plants their best chance to thrive. **They are not a guarantee** that every plant will survive.

This card is a summary, not a replacement. *For warranty and legal purposes, only the full Plant Care Guidelines at yepezlandscapetx.com and your Project Contract & Disclaimer apply. The full guidelines control over this card, and the contract controls over both.*

YEPEZ SIGNATURE LANDSCAPE

Plant Care Quick-Start Card

Your year at a glance

Spring
March – May

- Cut back grasses and hardy perennials by early March
- Optional: feed once new growth starts (about April)
- Refresh mulch to 2–3″
- Check every irrigation zone

Summer
June – September

- Water by thirst group (front side)
- Deadhead for more blooms
- Scout weekly for pests
- Last fertilizer by late August

Fall
October – November

- Ease off watering, but not during dry spells
- Light shaping only
- Leave perennial stems standing
- Mulch before the first freeze (about mid-November)

Winter
December – February

- Water 1–2 days before a hard freeze
- Frost-cloth tender plants
- Dormant pruning, late Jan–Feb
- If dry: most plants every 3–4 weeks, first-year trees every 2–3 weeks

Pruning in a nutshell

- **Spring and early-summer bloomers** (azalea, Indian hawthorn, loropetalum, redbud, bigleaf hydrangea): prune **right after they flower**.
- **Summer bloomers** (crape myrtle, vitex, abelia, roses): prune in **late winter**.
- Never remove more than ⅓ **of a shrub** in a year, or about ¼ of a mature tree's canopy.
- **Never top crape myrtles.** Remove suckers and crossing limbs instead.
- **Tender perennials** (lantana, esperanza): leave frost-killed stems until after the last freeze (mid-to-late March).

Normal, not a defect

- Some droop or leaf drop in the first 2–4 weeks (transplant shock)
- Afternoon wilt that recovers by evening
- Freeze die-back on lantana, canna, esperanza, and other tender plants
- Fall leaf drop on crape myrtle, vitex, redbud, and hydrangea
- Tan grasses and liriope in winter until they're cut back
- Mulch breaking down each year

What "deep watering" means

- **Beds:** 1¼–1½″ of water, enough to soak our clay 6–8″ deep. Measure with a tuna can, and run it in 2 cycles 30–60 minutes apart so it soaks in.
- **Trees:** 2–3 gallons per inch of trunk diameter, applied slowly with a trickling hose, soaker hose, or a bucket with holes drilled in the bottom.

When something looks wrong

What you see	What to do
Wilting, and the soil is dry	Deep soak now, and check that irrigation reaches the plant.
Wilting or yellowing, and the soil is soggy	Stop watering and let it dry out. Report it to us in writing.
Spots, webbing, cocoons, sooty bark, or sudden death	Don't cut or apply any product (hosing off spider mites is fine). Report it to us in writing first.

Report first, then treat

Warranty claims must be sent **in writing within 7 days** of noticing a problem. A call is a great start, but follow it with an email or a Client Hub request. Include a photo of the whole plant, a close-up, your watering schedule, and the date you first noticed it.

Phone: (903) 408-0674 **Email:** jose@yepezlandscapetx.com
Client Hub: Client Hub Login (also at yepezlandscapetx.com)

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