



BIG BLUE SKY

LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPE MANUAL

2025

BIGBLUESKYLANDSCAPING.COM

LANDSCAPE BASICS

YOUR GUIDE TO MANAGING A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

Congratulations on your new landscape!

Inside this cover are the keys to unleashing your new landscape's true potential. Thank you for choosing Big Blue Sky Landscaping, Inc. We'll be here when you need us.

Rest Assured!

Your Recent addition to the landscape is a sound investment in your quality of life. We know you will be able to relax in confidence mindful that your landscape has been installed to the highest standards. Naturally, questions and concerns will arise as you adapt to your new landscape. This guide has been composed to help answer some of the most common questions and to provide you with the information needed to take proper action to protect your landscape.

This booklet describes the components of your landscape and what is required to maintain and manage them so they perform as promised. As you read through this booklet, new questions will arise. We will be here to answer them and provide assistance when needed. All of us at Big Blue Sky Landscaping appreciate the opportunity to work with you and earn your friendship.

I hope you are thrilled with your new landscape and the level of service you received from our staff. We will be here when you need us. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Thank you,

Scott Reinblatt, GCLP
President

404-798-4114
BIGBLUESKYLANDSCAPING.COM



PEACE OF MIND

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Your landscape was designed to provide you with a beautiful, functional extension of your home. From the very beginning of planning to the final touches after the installation, we have considered your lifestyle in all decisions and are confident that you will absolutely love celebrating in your new landscape, creating memories with loved ones, and even just enjoying a refuge from life's daily stresses. We have taken the proper steps to insure this is possible. Freeing you from worry, BBSL, Inc. Guarantees all workmanship and labor for one year, or *Forever!*, if we are contracted to care for it.

- ‡ All of the plants chosen for your landscape are healthy, free from pest and disease and properly considered for your requirements. If they should fail to perform as promised, they will be replaced within the first year at no charge.
- ‡ Hardscapes and Stone Work are guaranteed to perform as promised and not to crack or chip under normal use.
- ‡ Irrigation systems have been installed according to IA Standards and will provide for adequate coverage and water usage for site conditions. Controllers and Sensors are subject o Manufacturers' Warranty.
- ‡ Lighting and Water Features are guaranteed to perform as promised. All components will carry Manufacturers' Warranty.

Lawns established by sodding of Warm Season Grasses will be certified true to species and cultivar, guaranteed to perform as promised for one year.

** Guarantee assumes the specifications of care in this booklet are followed. Neglect and natural causes will be the exception to coverage. BBSL, Inc. reserves the right to determine cause of performance failure.*



CAUTION!

We do not recommend the use of high powered power washers to clean stone.

Etching, Chipping and other
Damage may occur.

STONES AND HARDSCAPES

The natural beauty of stone is easy to enjoy. Maintaining it is just as easy on you. Be sure to keep all areas clean from debris such as leaf litter and fresh cut grass. Spills should be cleaned quickly with a mild soap and water. Sealing the stone is not necessary, but should be considered based on preference and intended use. For fireplaces, be sure to properly sweep the interior regularly. Metal outdoor furniture is a great complement to a stone patio.

However, be sure to treat the feet of tables and chairs to prevent rust from forming and bleeding on the stones.

Remember, Stones are porous and will patina over time modifying the tones and hues slightly. Your preferences and activity will determine the level of care required to maintain a "new" appearance.

WATER FEATURES

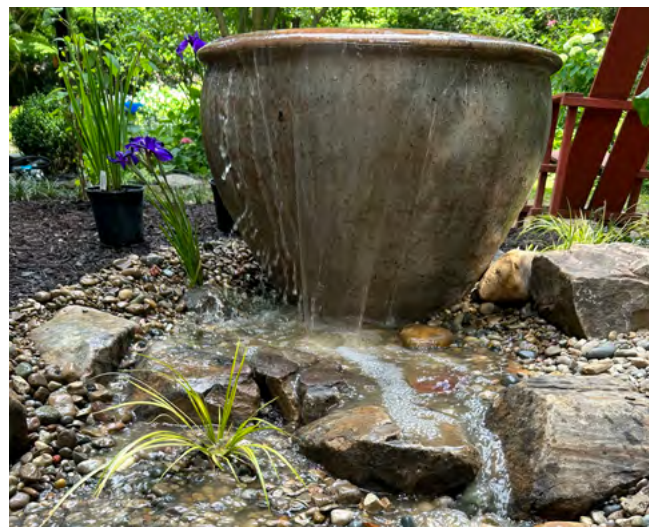
Water Features are perhaps the most enjoyed and talked about components of the landscape. They are uniquely tailored to each landscape and owner's preferences. A naturally balanced water feature is low maintenance, but they do require regular maintenance to keep them beautiful.

Water Evaporation is the primary concern. Our hot Summers will absorb water from the environment, including ponds, fountains, and waterfalls. If your pond was equipped with an automatic refill, do not worry. Otherwise, be sure to check the water level and refill as needed.

It is important to regularly skim Ponds for debris such as fallen leaves and pine straw. Be sure to also clean out the skimmer basin once a week. This will keep the pump in proper working order and prevent excessive cleaning needs. In the fall, cover the pond or waterfall with bird netting to catch leaves before they enter.

Fish, especially Koi, are wonderful pets. Feeding them is fun and relaxing. Fish will also keep the insect population down. The waste they produce provides a great fertilizer for aquatic plants.

Yearly, Spring cleaning should be performed by a professional.



Koi can be trained to eat from your hand!
Gently tap the water at feeding time. Soon
your fish will follow the cues and swim
to you. over time, they will become
comfortable and eat from your hand!



SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

The act of Pruning encourages growth! Therefore, the more we prune, the more pruning is needed.

PRUNING: WHEN AND WHY

One of the most common problems in the landscape is caused by people with the best of intentions. In our efforts to educate and inform, we preach daily that "Pruning is not an event, but rather a PROCESS of developing a plant's potential.

It is all about hormones. All plants respond to pruning by the release of hormones. This response promotes the pruned areas to multiply and rejuvenate. By understanding the nature of plants, we can better help them to conform to our desires. Proper pruning encourages flowering, promotes strong growth and results in better health and LESS Care.

- ‡ Spring Flowering Plants should be pruned after they flower.
- ‡ Summer Flowering Shrubs should be pruned before they bloom.

Keep in mind that most plants do not have access to a calendar. They grow based on climate and weather conditions. So when your neighbor says that he is pruning his crepe myrtle because it is January, be nice.

EXPANDING THE GARDEN

The future expansion of the garden brings great joy and refreshes the feelings the garden provides. Introducing new plants, flowers and bulbs is easy to do. The addition of Containers and Flower Beds can add a special POP! The garden is yours to play in as you please. If questions arise, feel free to contact us for assistance.



E-Newsletter!

Be sure to sign up for our complimentary E-Newletter, Blue Skies Ahead. You will receive regular updates to information vital to the health of your landscape as well as being the first to know when we have specials or other fun information.



IRRIGATION

Irrigation systems are comprised of a series of pipes, valves and electronics. Smart Controllers are intuitive and easy to manage. Coupled with new sensor technology, your irrigation system will perform efficiently and reliably for many years.

Regular inspection of sprinklers and drip lines should be performed at the beginning, middle, and end of each season and adjustments should be made when needed. Winterization is the process of draining and disengaging the irrigation system in early Winter. This is necessary because water that freezes in the pipe will expand and cause system failure and broken pipes.

Spring Start Up is the process of activating and pressurizing the system, inspecting the coverage and distribution of water and replacing worn components.

We recommend and offer a yearly Irrigation Management Program that provides 5 scheduled inspections reprogramming during the season. Ask your Account Manager for details and pricing.



TREES AND SHRUBS

The foundation of all Gardens are the Trees and Shrubs. The trees and shrubs chosen for your landscape have proven durable for our climate urban conditions. Once established, they are easy to care for and provide for years of service. Regular pruning is necessary in the early years to promote proper development of structure. If the tree was Staked at the time of Installation, be sure to monitor the guide wires on a regular basis. Inspect for girdling and adjust when needed. The first year in their new home, Trees and Shrubs will benefit from regular fertilization treatments. This will help the roots establish. Be sure to regularly monitor the soil moisture and apply water when needed. Allowing the roots to dry out completely for long durations will stunt the growth and cause long term health issues. Keep the areas underneath the plants clear of debris. Maintaining proper mulch levels insures proper moisture, soil temperatures and prevents unwanted competition with weeds.

Never use bagged grass clippings as mulch unless it is composted completely.







WATER & LIFE

DANCING WITH NATURE

WATERING GUIDELINES

Be sure to water your plants regularly. Begin Watering everyday for the first two weeks. This will keep the plant hydrated as its' roots explore their new home. After two weeks, reduce watering to every other day for two weeks. At week five, reduce the frequency to twice a week and maintain this cycle for the first Summer. Once plants are established and growing, watering once a week in the absence of rain is all that is needed. Be sure to monitor the soil moisture during extreme conditions such as heat and drought. Adjust watering schedule if wilting or stress is noticed.

DURATION

How long one waters a plant depends on the source and distribution of the water. If we installed your irrigation system, rest assured, it is programmed accordingly. Otherwise, the general Rule of Thumb is to keep the soil moist, but not saturated or wet.

Initial watering should be light and frequent. Keep the root ball moist. As the frequency is reduced the duration should be increased. A progression that provides for deeper and less frequent watering will encourage roots to explore deeper into the soil profile. This larger root system will be able to source water more efficiently and be less subject to environmental stresses. The availability of water at 8 inches deep is more consistent than at shallower depths.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER WATER

Water in the soil profile competes for porous space with oxygen. When the balance of Oxygen is too low, roots cannot process properly and die. Allowing the soil to dry briefly between watering cycles will prevent most of the issues related to overwatering.

Watering in the winter is necessary during dry periods or immediately after hard freezes to help repair cell structures damaged by the cold. Snow melts are rich in nitrogen and good for plants. Likewise, during periods with little or no rain and excessive heat, plants will need water to sustain and recover.



PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS

Perennials are plants that return year after year, some have been around for 100's of years! They typically flower for a period of 30 –60 days depending on the plant species. Some are grown specifically for the foliage they provide.

Annuals are plants that provide long lasting bursts of seasonal color through both flowers and foliage. These are fast growing plants that require the most maintenance in the landscape.

Perennials and annuals will produce more flowers when deadheaded regularly. Fertilization requirements are higher with annuals, though both will benefit from regular treatments.

Perennials are more tolerant of dry soils than annuals. When annuals dry out, it is most likely the end of the road for them. Perennials, however, can draw on the root system's food storage to outlast the conditions.

LAWNS

A high quality lawn begins and ends with the development of the root system. Healthy Turf can tolerate the traffic and wear when properly cared for. Properly managed turf is not only beautiful but provides for erosion control and ground water filtration. Proper care is important to the long term health of your lawn and begins with mowing. A sharp blade makes cleaner cuts and should always be adjusted to the proper height (listed below). Mowing should be performed every 7-10 days during the growing season. Edging the turf prevents the unwanted spreading of the lawn into flowerbeds and sidewalks. Regular fertilization is needed to keep the lawn healthy and growing. Water should be applied during the establishment period and during each growing season in the absence of rain. Weed Control should be performed to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Annually, Power Core Aeration will keep the soil loose and porous, further promoting a healthy, lush.



MOWING HEIGHTS

Zoysia: 1 1/4 to 1 3/4" | **Fescue:** 3 to 4"
Bermuda: 3/4 to 1 1/4"
Centipede: 1 1/2 to 2"
St Augustine: 2 1/2 to 3 1/2"





NATURE'S HELPING HAND

HEALTH AND INFLUENCE



Mulch is important for plant health. There are many choices that meet the requirements of each landscape. The important thing to remember when choosing and installing mulch is to use an organic product that provides for proper moisture retention and allows for the percolation of water and nutrients into the soil underneath. We recommend mulching 1 to 2 times per year to maintain a layer 2-3 inches thick. This will help regulate soil temperature and help prevent weeds from competing with your plants. This reduces plant stress and results in healthier, beautiful plants.



Fertilizers supplement the nutrients Plants and Lawns require. Fertilizers are formulated to provide for Macro and Micro Nutrients, though not all are created equal. Some are formulated for lawns, some for plants. Some are even specific to times of year. We do not recommend blanket applications of fertilizers but rather encourage you to soil test or hire a professional to manage this for you. Over fertilization can result in plant death and long term soil contamination if not performed correctly.





NATURE'S HELPING HAND

HEALTH AND INFLUENCE (CONTINUED)



Weeds are one of the most common nuisances in the landscape. Once established, they can out compete the desired landscape plants for available nutrients and water. They may even invade and dominate growing space. Weeds can be controlled both preventively and curatively. Prevention is always better and easy to manage, requiring less chemicals than Curative solutions. The use of pre-emergence herbicides are proven to reduce the impact on the garden and the environment. A properly licensed professional can help you develop and manage a Weed Management Program.



Disease and Insects are blamed for many common landscape problems. The fact is that practicing proper care and maintenance practices can prevent most issues. Most plants in the landscape are tolerant and do not require routine treatments. When plants are weak or stressed, the likelihood for infestation climbs. When treatments are needed, we recommend a Systemic approach to control. Blanket spraying of pesticides can harm beneficial insects and cause for population control problems, requiring excessive treatments. We recommend seeking the advise and service of a professional to provide monitoring and control of Landscape Pests.



We consider a referral the greatest compliment. Rest assured that we'll never let you down for telling a friend, family member, or neighbor to call us!



BIG BLUE SKY

L A N D S C A P I N G

Your first impression should be your last worry

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE · PROFESSIONAL IMAGE · UNPARALLELED VALUE

Phone: (770) 828-0972

E-mail: scott@bigblueskylandscaping.com

Website: bigblueskylandscaping.com