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# Plant Maintenance Guidelines

REVISED WINTER 2021



# PLANT MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

These notes are provided for general information. Please refer to landscape drawings, details and specifications where applicable.

## OVERVIEW

- Choosing appropriate vines for greenscreen® projects requires careful consideration of climate zone, sun and wind exposure, soil type, water and nutrient needs and visual aesthetics. Twining vines are strongly recommended for wall-mounted applications.
- greenscreen® recommends that a landscape architect, landscape designer, landscape maintenance contractor, facilities manager or horticulturalist be consulted for each specific installation.
- greenscreen® does not supply maintenance services.
- All plant material requires some maintenance, although some vines are less maintenance intensive than others. At a minimum, all plant material should receive the following annual processes:
  - Pruning
  - Fertilization Application
  - Mulch Application
  - Irrigation Check



- Bi-annual pruning is recommended. If needed, additional monthly pruning schedules can be implemented.
- greenscreen® panels, clips or brackets and posts are powder coated to resist corrosion. Visually inspect all components to ensure that the powder coating has not been compromised in the field. If panels have been field cut or components have been scratched, clean thoroughly and apply a corrosion-inhibiting touch-up paint to the locations. Any dead, damaged or diseased vines should be replaced.
- All temporary plant staking should be removed at installation. If temporary plant staking is present, remove and weave vines into the grid or attach branches onto the panels with biodegradable ties.

## MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The following information is consistent with horticultural best practices for ensuring a successful establishment period and the long-term survival of your green façade installation.

### Pruning

Vines should be maintained and pruned to encourage new growth. Use bypass pruners or loppers to remove any leaders, shoots or tendrils that are directed back to or have attached to the wall. Remove any damaged or diseased tendrils and weave any runners or long shoots back into the panels. The outside perimeter of the panel can be used as a pruning template.

Different vines have specific growth habits, and pruning schedules should be adjusted accordingly.

All blooming vines should be pruned after flowering in order to maintain the seasonal visual aesthetic.

Shearing on the front of the panels can be beneficial in tight right-of-ways to maintain circulation, and heavy pruning at the top and sides of the panel will encourage uniform coverage. When shearing with gas-powered trimmers, care must be taken to prevent damage to the panels, clips or brackets and posts. Remove clippings and compost.

### Fertilization Application

Prior to planting, test the soil to determine soil health and nutrient deficiencies. Based on the soils report, apply fertilizer and organic amendments to promote healthy vine growth. Sprayed on, water-soluble foliar applications can also be scheduled to encourage healthy, vigorous plants. Recommended fertilization rates should be determined by plant material, soil conditions and planting bed location. Raised planters may require supplemental nutrients during the growing season.

### Mulch Application

After the planting area has been properly cleaned and weeded, apply a pre-emergent herbicide to control germinating weed seeds according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Apply a 2" to 4" layer of mulch to the planting bed. Natural, biodegradable mulch, such as shredded hardwood or pine straw, will help to retain moisture, add additional organic material to the soil and cut down on weeding maintenance. After applying mulch, add water to new plant material as necessary.

### Irrigation Check

The irrigation system should be inspected for broken or clogged lines, damaged spray heads and line leaks. All drip irrigation should be checked to ensure adequate water delivery. Visually check that zones are operating efficiently and adjust controller timer settings based upon installation timing, growing season and watering requirements. Water requirements may be different during the one- to two-year plant establishment period.



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