

## GENERAL TIPS

- **Fertilize** – Be sure to fertilize on a regular basis, especially if you have a sprinkling system or there has been large amounts of rainfall. Nutrients can be washed through the soil faster than the plant can absorb with more water that is applied to the plant.

Use a slow release granular fertilizer which is time released and will be a longer lasting fertilizer. Use a water soluble fertilizer which will be absorbed through the plant more quickly, but keep in mind that it will also be washed away more quickly.

Use Evergreen fertilizer for evergreen plants, especially in the spring after the winter wind has dried out their foliage. Use Tree & Shrub fertilizer for deciduous plants (ones that loose their leaves). Use a bloom booster for annuals, perennials, and flowering trees and shrubs just before and during bloom time to enhance your blooms.

Always follow the directions, know when to fertilize and what type of fertilizer your plant needs.

- **Weeds** – Weeds are inevitable; you will always have weeds, whether you have mulch or stone with weed barrier.

Generally weed barrier is not recommended under mulch, the mulch is designed to break down, just like a fallen tree in the woods. The breaking down of the mulch adds vital nutrients to your soil and helps to hold moisture, by putting weed barrier under your mulch you will eventually end up with dirt on top of your fabric.

If you have any existing trees or crop fields in your neighborhood you will get weeds. Use Preen as early in the spring as possible and apply 3-4 times per year depending on the length of the growing season and the amount of water your beds receive. This product prevents the weed seeds from germinating; it will not kill any existing weeds. You may need to Preen washed stone beds also since weed seeds are not particular on where they land.

Spray Round Up on existing weeds, but be very careful not to spray your plants since Round Up is not particular on what plants it kills. If you see a weed spray it right away or it will bring friends with it. If you have a stubborn weed that grows right in the middle of one of your plants you may, VERY carefully, on one hand put on a rubber glove and then a cotton glove over the top of the rubber glove, spray the cotton glove (palm & fingers) with Round Up, then gently move your plant away from the weed with your free hand. Once the weed, and only the weed is exposed take the cotton glove with the Round Up sprayed on it and wipe it over the leaves of the weed, BE VERY CAREFUL not to get any on your plant.

The first 1-3 years will be the most important until all of the existing weeds are gone, then you only need to maintain the weed seeds by using Preen. Don't get discouraged, be patient, and stay on top of the weeds right away.

Spray Round Up along brick edging to keep the grass from growing onto the brick/patio.

- **Water** – WATER! WATER! WATER! Water up until the ground freezes!