



Watering Guidelines for a New Landscape

Correct watering is the single most important factor in establishing your new plantings. During the first year after planting, check all plants weekly by inserting your finger into the soil to a depth of two to three inches. Water when the soil is no longer moist. Slow, deep watering is preferred. A slow trickle of water from a garden hose for 20 - 40 minutes should be adequate for trees and larger shrubs. Water smaller shrubs at a slow trickle for 10 - 20 minutes. For perennials, annuals, and groundcover, running a soaker hose for 20 minutes or hand watering the area should be adequate. The smaller the root system a plant has the more necessary it is to keep up with the watering needs. Excessive, frequent watering is as bad for plants as no water, so check your soil before watering.

Symptoms of Under-watering and/or Over-watering

Under-watering _____

- ❖ Soil is Dry
- ❖ Older leaves turn yellow or brown; drop off
- ❖ Leaves are wilted
- ❖ Leaves are drooping
- ❖ Leaves curl
- ❖ Stems or branches die back

Over-watering

- ❖ Soil is constantly damp
- ❖ Leaves turn lighter green to yellow, may drop off
- ❖ Young shoots are wilted
- ❖ Algae and/or mushrooms appear
- ❖ Leaves are green yet brittle
- ❖ Presence of soft, smelly rotted tissue

When to water?

The best time to water is early morning before the temperatures begin to rise. Watering in the morning allows water to soak deeply into the soil providing the plants with a good amount of water to face the heat of the day. If watering cannot be done in the early morning, late afternoon is also an option. It is important to water early enough in the afternoon so the leaves have time to dry before nightfall. Allowing the leaves to dry before nightfall reduces development of fungal diseases.

How often to water?

The frequency of watering plant material can vary due to several factors. These factors include, how recently the plants have been installed, season of the year, plant type, soil conditions, sun, temperature, and drying winds.

* Grass seed and sod should not be allowed to completely dry out from the day it is installed until well rooted.

	NEW LANDSCAPE WATERING GUIDELINES			
	SEASONAL FREQUENCY - DAYS BETWEEN WATERING			
	SPRING MAR. - MAY	SUMMER JUNE - SEPT.	FALL OCT. - DEC.	WINTER JAN. - MAR.
TREES	7 - 14 DAYS	5 - 10 DAYS	7 - 14 DAYS	WHEN PLANTING
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS	5 - 7 DAYS	3 - 5 DAYS	5 - 7 DAYS	WATER ONCE WHEN PLANTED
EVERGREENS & BROADLEAVES	5 - 10 DAYS	5 - 7 DAYS	5 - 10 DAYS	IF DRY
PERENNIALS & GRASSES	3 - 5 DAYS	2 - 3 DAYS	3 - 5 DAYS	NA
ANNUALS & GROUNDCOVER	1 - 3 DAYS	1 - 2 DAYS	1 - 3 DAYS	NA
SEED	KEEP MOIST	KEEP MOIST	KEEP MOIST	NA
SOD	KEEP MOIST	KEEP MOIST	KEEP MOIST	AS NEEDED IF DRY

** Please use this information as guidelines for watering your new landscape throughout the first year. A good rain measuring 1" or more is equivalent to one watering.

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