



Watering Practices

Watering Guidelines for your new plants

Use this as a guide only - heat, humidity and soil/site conditions need to be taken into consideration. It is best to use your own judgment as to how much water your plants need. Extremely hot or windy days will dry your plants out very quickly. Your new plants need deep, thorough watering to help establish their root system. For at least the first four weeks after your plants are installed, water is the key to keeping your plants healthy and beautiful.

How to water your new plants

1. Turn your garden hose on half way open so as not to erode the dirt and mulch away with high pressure from your garden hose. **DO NOT** use any type of nozzle on the hose.
2. Hold the hose near the trunk of the tree or the center of a shrub.
3. Water your large trees first (This allows water to soak in to their larger root balls). Remember that larger trees can have as much as 2 ft. root balls below the ground. You should water for about 3-5 minutes before moving to your next tree.
4. Water small shrubs next, taking into consideration the size of the plant, you should water from 20 to 45 seconds.
5. Return to your large trees and water for an additional 2-3 minutes.

If the area around your plant is soft or mushy, to the point where your feet are sinking, **DO NOT** water your plant that day. Check your plant the next day to see if it needs to be watered. Too much water will restrict oxygen to the plants root system causing the plant to "drown". Plants that are over watered tend to lose leaves from the center of the plant first. Under watered plants tend to lose leaves from the outside of the plant first and their leaves start to get brown and dry from the edges of the leaves inward. If you are unsure if your plant is over or under watered, pull back the mulch around the plant and gently push your fingers into the ground to check if the dirt is moist or dry. It should be fairly moist but not muddy.

DO NOT skip watering plants because it is forecasted to rain the next day, or if it rained over night. As a general rule a rainfall must exceed 1" in depth over 3 or more hours. Sometimes rain fall does not have a chance to soak into the ground to give a deep soaking.

Watering Schedule

1st Week: Once Per Day

2nd and 3rd Week: Every Other Day

4th Week to end of growing season: 2 to 3 times per week

Thereafter: 1 to 2 times per week as needed. Time of year, excessive heavy rains and drought must be considered. It must be understood this is only a guide - you will still need to check your plants to see if they need more or less water.

After the first winter season we prefer to only water plants during of times of stress, such as; high temperatures, drought and/or low humidity. We maintain that allowing an established plant to struggle increases their sustainability without relying on alternate resources.

With Automatic Irrigation

Although we do not feel automatic irrigation is necessary for a healthy garden, it does increase the convenience factor. Our approach is automatic irrigation should be used to adequately give the garden the minimum amount of water, as excess watering is harmful to plants and wasteful of resources. Plants are stronger and more tolerant of seasonal changes if they are allowed to be more dependent on seasonal weather conditions.

If you do have or are going to have an automatic irrigation system, please follow some simple rules in watering.

Water early morning between 3-6am, during this time municipal water pressures are best and will produce an even consistent flow. Watering early also allows leaves that become wet time to dry in hot weather months to avoid scorching and you avoid fungal diseases from developing from cool night time temperatures.

Your system should have the trees/shrubs on a separate zone from lawn or perennial beds. As each have different watering requirements. Zone layout and installation best if done by a professional (Call us for recommendations). Run time for zones will vary due to watering requirements noted above in new plants, local watering regulations, and specific plant needs. In all about 1" of water a week on established plants is more than adequate, as long as it has time to soak in.

We also recommend all automatic systems have a seasonal review of all products for coverage, efficiency, damaged or clogged heads. In our climate all systems must be winterized (where air is blown through the lines at high pressure). This will remove all water from lines preventing freezing of pipes in the winter. Also having the backflow preventer removed is highly recommended. Please call us for details on how we can help.