

WATERING GUIDELINES FOR YOUR NEW PLANTING

Watering your newly planted landscapes is the most important part of having success with your investment. Ninety five percent of new landscapes fail due to improper watering. Because our warranty states we will not replace plants due to improper watering we are providing you with this detailed instruction sheet. Many variables will affect how much water your newly updated landscape will need.

The general rule of thumb is one inch of water per week, though weather patterns will have a profound affect on your watering schedule.

Rainfall and cool weather will change the suggested watering time frame of twice per week to once per week, while dry, hot weather may require three or more waterings per week.

TIMING: Watering in the morning is preferred to watering during the day or night. Daytime watering is less effective due to evaporation, while watering during the evening will leave your plants wet overnight, potentially inviting disease into your landscape. Overhead irrigation should have time enough during the day to evaporate so that leaves do not stay wet overnight.

Remember, one inch is generally all it takes. If there is no rainfall, you will need to apply at least 1 inch of water per week to your landscape. It is best to apply the water in two or three applications as opposed to all at once. Individual plants that are under larger trees or shrubs may need additional watering even if it rains.

DROOPING LEAVES: Typically, a drooping leaf will mean that a plant needs water. But plants will also droop their leaves if they are starved for oxygen, which means they may have been over watered and the soil is saturated. If you see leaves drooping, check the soil to see if it is dry. Never assume a plant needs water because its leaves are drooping, yellowing, or falling off.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS: In-ground irrigation systems can provide a false sense of freedom when watering. Although they are helpful because they reduce labor and provide regular watering, pay attention to how much water your irrigation system is providing for your landscape. At times, irrigation systems do not provide adequate amounts of water needed to keep a new planting healthy and strong, or they may even provide more water than is necessary.



HERE ARE SOME MORE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR WATERING DIFFERENT TYPES OF LANDSCAPE PLANTS:

ANNUAL FLOWERS

Newly planted annuals (that have been in the ground for less than 3 weeks) should be watered every one to two days, letting soil dry between waterings. Water so that the top 1 to 2 inches of soil are moist. A second watering may be needed each day if they are newly planted during hot weather.

Established annuals (3 or more weeks in the ground) should be watered as weather conditions dictate, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings.

PERENNIAL FLOWERS

For newly planted perennials (less 8 weeks in the ground), water every three to four days to moisten the top 2 to 4 inches of soil.

After perennials have been in the ground and well watered for a few weeks, begin to reduce the frequency of your watering. Though you will not water as often, you will want to water a little deeper, so that the top 5 to 7 inches of soil are saturated. This will encourage the roots of your perennials to grow deeper into the earth and become well established.

NOTE Sometimes newly planted perennials will wilt on a hot sunny day even though the soil is damp. This happens because the plant has not had enough time to establish a good enough root system to supply the top growth with enough water. If this happens to you, check the soil to make sure that it is damp at least 1" below the soils surface. If it is, do not provide more water, but try to provide wilting perennials with some shade if possible (an old umbrella is always useful for this purpose).

Established perennials (1 year or more in the ground) may be able to go three to four weeks without watering or rainfall. Monitor moisture levels for the first year carefully to ensure plants are not over or under watered and be sure to provide additional water for your perennials during hot, dry weather.

SHRUBS & WOODY ORNAMENTALS

Newly planted shrubs (less than 8 weeks in ground) will need one to two gallons of water per watering at the base of the plant, under the drip line of the shrub. Soak the soil from the dripline to the main stem underneath the entire shrub.

If you find one of your shrubs limp and wilted, check to see if the surrounding soil is dry. If so, water it immediately and try to provide some shade for it if possible. If it does not perk up, dig down and check to see if the original root ball is wet. It is very important that the original root ball is fully saturated when watering is complete.

Established shrubs (in the ground for 1 year or more) should be monitored for moisture regularly and watered as needed. They will need more water during dry, hot weather, roughly once per day, preferably in the morning.

TREES & LARGE SHRUBS

Newly planted trees and large shrubs (in the ground for less than 12 weeks) should be watered once a week, with a second watering during the hot, dry summer months. The larger the tree or shrub that is planted, the more water it will require to soak the root ball and the surrounding soil. By laying the hose on top of the root ball (with the water running at a very slow trickle) for 30 to 45 minutes, the root zone of the tree should get enough water to adequately soak the root ball.

As with all plants, be sure not to over water your trees. You do not want the soil around your newly planted trees to be muddy or mushy for a long period of time. Make sure the area around a newly planted tree is draining correctly.

Don't rely on lawn irrigation systems to water trees. These systems are designed to water the top 1 or 2 inches of soil and usually do not provide enough water to soak the root zones of your newly planted trees.

Established trees (2 years or longer in the ground) should be monitored for moisture during their first year in the ground. If you every find that the soil around a tree is very dry and its leaves are wilting or yellowing, go ahead and water it, though it is ideal to be vigilant and not let your trees get to the point where they are wilting.

If we have installed soaker hoses for you, it is likely that they have been set up in different zones, meaning different lengths of hoses that are required to be connected to your main hose and turned on separately. This will make it easier for you to provide the proper amount of water to the proper variety of plant material within the zone you are watering.

Follow the above guidelines, but be sure to keep a vigilant eye on individual plants in your landscape. They may not all respond the same to the amount of water the soaker hoses are providing, even if they are two plants of the same kind.

