



Watering Tips

WATERING TREES, SHRUBS, & PERENNIALS

Newly installed plants need water more than established plantings. The demand will vary by type and size. As a general guide, allow one gallon of water per one foot of plant height. Tree, shrub, and perennial watering is best done by hand using a garden hose. Most garden hoses will deliver one gallon of water in 15–30 seconds. Always check the root balls to verify actual needs. Nothing will substitute for judgment based upon your assessment of how dry or wet the root zone is.

Watering guidelines for new plantings in the spring through fall:

- First and second week: every 1–2 days until the root system is soaked
- Third and fourth week: every 2–3 days until the root system is soaked
- After the first month: every 3–4 days until the root system is soaked

Watering guidelines for new plantings in the late fall through winter:

- First and second week: every 2–3 days until the root system is soaked
- After two weeks: every 3–5 days until the root system is soaked
- After the first month: every 7 days until the root system is soaked
- As Spring approaches use the watering recommendations mentioned above
- Ensure root balls are soaked ahead of freezing temperatures to help protect the plant

WATERING LAWN SOD & SEED

The primary goal of watering new sod and seed is to maintain moist, but not soggy soil. The best way to achieve this is with an irrigation system or temporary sprinklers set on a timer capable of watering multiple times per day. Established lawns prefer deep, infrequent watering, and new areas need frequent, shallow watering to maintain moisture levels.

Watering guidelines for new sod:

- Soak the sod and first 2" of soil on the first day upon installation
- First two weeks: 3–4 times per day for 5–8 minutes depending on soil type
- Weeks three and four: 2–3 times per day for 5–8 minutes depending on soil type
- After four weeks: fertilize new sod and slowly adjust watering to match your normal lawn watering schedule (1" of water per week)

Watering guidelines for new seed:

- First two weeks: 3–4 times per day for 5–8 minutes depending on soil type
- Weeks three and four: 2–3 times per day for 5–8 minutes depending on soil type
- After four weeks: slowly adjust watering to match your normal lawn watering schedule (1" of water per week)