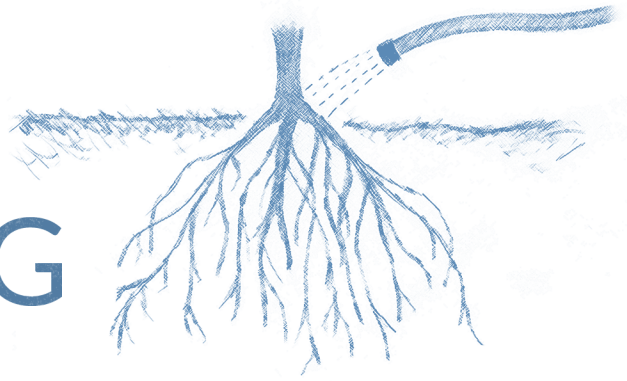


TIPS *for* WATERING



How Much Water?

Newly Planted Plants

Year One: Immediately after planting, give the entire root ball of the plant a deep soak. Water plants frequently from spring through fall when the weather is dry; daily in the morning for the first few weeks after planting. After those few weeks, you may be able to reduce watering to 2 or 3 times a week for the next month. If the weather is continually hot and dry, daily or twice daily watering may be necessary.

Note: Roots cannot access the soil moisture they need until their roots begin to grow. By frequent watering in the early stages, you are providing your plants with the soil moisture they need to promote a deeper root growth and sustain the plant until additional roots are developed.

Years Two & Three: Only in extremely hot and dry conditions will you need to water 1–2 times a week. After the third year plants are considered established.

Established Plants Deep infrequent watering is recommended. In most cases, 1 inch of water is enough either by rainfall or manual irrigation.

New Lawn Areas Thoroughly water seed in the mornings. It is important to keep the soil moist (not drenched) until seed has fully germinated. Total germination typically takes several weeks. On extremely warm days where evaporation rates are high, an additional watering in the afternoon may be necessary to prevent the seed and soil from drying out.

Note: Transplanted plants take just as much water and in most cases *MORE* than container grown plants.

Rules Of Thumb

Focus on the Root Zone Remember, the roots are what need the water, not the foliage. Wetting the foliage of your plants is not only a waste of water, but it can also promote the spreading of diseases.

Water Only When Needed Reduce the frequency of watering when rainfall is abundant. Too much water can be just as damaging to plants as too little water.

Water Deeply & Thoroughly Lawns and annual's roots are concentrated in the top 6" of soil; for most perennials, trees and shrubs, the roots are concentrated in the top 12". In heavy soil (such as clay), it may take hours for water to percolate down 6–12". Use your finger or shovel to check the progress.

Water in the Mornings If you do get moisture on the foliage of your plants, this gives the water proper time to evaporate throughout the day. It is very difficult for plant diseases to spread when foliage is dry.

Mulch Mulch slows the process of rain and irrigation runoff and slows the process of evaporation from the soil. For more water retention, create a mulch berm ringaround the plant. **NOTE:** this is only necessary when the frequency of watering is minimal.

Use the Right Tool Sprinkler systems are great for lawn areas, but a soaker hose or a drip irrigation system is recommended for plant beds. Otherwise, just be sure to water in the mornings, using a Water Breaker Wand for even water coverage. (Hoen's Stocked Item)



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