



## Watering Guide

### Trees and Shrubs

For the first year we recommend different watering schedules for certain seasons. Don't go by the date as much as the temperature:

Spring (approx. April 1 - May 31): 2 times per week for 30-40 minutes

Summer (approx. June 1 - August 31): 3 times per week for 30-40 minutes

Fall (approx. September 1 - November 30): 2 times per week for 30-40 minutes

Winter (approx. December 1 - March 31): as needed during warm spells

Place the hose at the base of the plant and water with a slow and steady trickle to thoroughly soak the root ball.

Water small plants more heavily which are near large, established trees and shrubs. Their smaller root systems have difficulty competing for available moisture. Older trees and shrubs rarely need watering unless they have been damaged, stressed in some way, or in a drought.

### Perennials

Perennials are less deeply rooted than trees and most shrubs but they still need deep watering for proper root growth and strong flowering. Avoid early loss or disfigurement of blossoms by watering only the roots, not the foliage. Soaker hoses are best for this. One to two inches of water per week, in one application, is generally ideal, unless there are drying winds or intense heat. Mulch plants to hold moisture and keep down weeds.

### Annuals and Vegetables

Annuals and vegetables do best when watered at soil level, not onto the foliage. This technique cuts down on disease and prolongs the life of both flowers and fruit. You can use soaker hoses, drip-method trickle irrigation, or trench watering.

Hoses or drip systems conserve water while sending moisture to roots without puddling; they also combat heat stress by keeping soil cooler.

The results are healthier plants with more flowers and higher yields. Trenching requires digging troughs between beds, flooding them, and allowing water to soak down slowly and deeply. Mulches, such as plastic sheeting, newspapers, hay, or decorative wood chips keep down weeds and retain moisture between waterings or rains.

## **Lawns**

### **-Newly Installed Sod**

#### **FIRST TWO WEEKS AFTER INSTALLATION**

- ***Proper watering is essential*** to establishment (rooting) of your new sod. It's nearly impossible to over water new sod!
- As a general rule, ***keep sod and soil moist all throughout the day***. As much as ***2 to 6 sprinklings during the day*** (morning and afternoon) are required until sod begins to root. Adjust for location, sprinklers, and temperature.
- ***Stay off new sod until after the first mowing***.
- Try cutting back the frequency of irrigation just before the first mow to firm up the soil.
- ***First mow is approximately 14 days*** after installation except in winter, which will require a longer time before the first mow.
- ***Mowing high is least stressful to the new sod***. Never mow off more than one-third of the grass blade.

#### **THREE TO FOUR WEEKS AFTER INSTALLATION**

- ***Re-adjust your watering clock or timer***. Reduce frequency of waterings gradually after each mowing, while ***increasing minutes per watering***.
- ***Deeper, less frequent soakings will help roots*** grow down deeper and establish more quickly into the soil. Pull or tug on turf to check rooting.
- ***Fertilize your new sod lawn at one month*** to continue encouraging rooting and establishment.

## **Lawns:**

Water lawns in the morning so grass will dry before dark. This discourages mold spores and other diseases which thrive in moist darkness. Water 2-2.5" every 4-7 days, depending on your soil's structure and the weather. This practice encourages deep roots and a drought-resistant turf. If you use automatic sprinklers, make sure they are not set for frequent, shallow waterings — grass roots will only grow near the surface, causing sunburn and weakness

towards pests and disease. If you have new sod, keep it evenly moist until it resists tugging. When roots have taken hold (about a month), a regular deep soaking once per week for 1-3 hours should be adequate.

The only way to determine if your property is getting enough natural moisture is to use a rain gauge. An empty tuna or cat food can or a measuring cup placed in the garden will do. One inch of rain fills a tuna or cat food can. One to two inches of water per week, in one application, is excellent during summer weather for most plants, with the exception of new plantings. In cooler weather or drought conditions watering should be adjusted accordingly.

### **Things to remember:**

- Mulch to retain water and keep down weeds
- Water all in one application rather than short, frequent waterings.
- Water in the early morning rather than evening to prevent disease.



**Happy Planting!**