



A Simplified Watering Guide to Help You Care for Your Plants for the First Several Years

Spring – Water thoroughly every 10 – 14 days.

Summer – Water thoroughly once or twice weekly depending on temperatures and rainfall.

Fall – Water thoroughly every 10 – 14 days depending on temperatures and rainfall. Be certain to water deeply with the onset of winter. It is important that young trees and shrubs go into freezing weather with ample moisture.

Winter – Water thoroughly during exceptionally warm periods in late January and February when ground has thawed.

Tree and Shrub Care for the First Year

Moisture is our most important suggestion regarding newly set trees and shrubs. When first planted, they should be watered once or twice a week for a month, and at least once a week thereafter. Don't let light rains or heavy showers mislead you into thinking your plants have sufficient moisture. To water, we suggest letting your hose run very slowly for thirty minutes to an hour around each tree and shorter periods for shrubs. If the ground is drier than normal, you should allow the water to run for a longer time. Watering is a preventive, not a cure; use it regularly and generously. If you are watering turf, we encourage you to weekly check the moisture around the root ball at a depth of 12" – 18". Too much water can damage plants.

During winters that are unseasonably warm and dry, plants should be watered periodically to prevent the roots from drying out.

Mulch is inexpensive and very beneficial. Good mulches include bark, old leaves and wood shavings. It should be applied 2 – 4 inches deep and extend far enough to cover the spread of the root. Mulch will keep soil cool, hold moisture, smother out seeds and make penetration of water easier, this is a wonderful practice where water is limited. Packaged and bulk mulches are available at Independence Nursery.

Pruning is rarely needed during the first year except to trim back a branch that is growing irregularly.

Wrapping the trunks of newly planted trees is advisable for prevention of winter injury due to severe cold or rodent activity. Wrap should be removed in late spring and a new one installed the following fall.

Feeding should not be necessary during the first growing season. When plants have become stabilized, usually after they have been planted for one year, fertilization should be done in February or March. One or two handfuls of good tree or shrub analysis fertilizer, worked into the soil in the root zone and watered-in will be beneficial.