

SIGNS OF MOISTURE STRESS

Most plants will tell you when they aren't happy. Here are some signs to watch for:

- ♦ Curling leaves
- ♦ Shiny leaves grow dull
- ♦ Foliage color significantly fades
- ♦ New growth wilts or drops
- ♦ Older (interior leaves/needles) turn brown and drop
- ♦ Flowers fade quickly or prematurely

If you notice any of these symptoms, check your soil moisture to a depth of 12" to determine if the plant needs more or less water.

The most common cause of new plant failure in the landscape is improper watering. Water is the most essential resource for the establishment, growth, and survival of new plants. Too much water will displace oxygen in the soil and cause the plant to slowly suffocate. Too little water will cause tender roots to dry out and die, causing the plant to fail. While watering is critical in the establishment of new plants, it is not complicated.

Follow this guide to ensure your new plants get off to a healthy start.

Plants are an investment and our goal is to protect your investment. Weather, siting, and other factors affect how much water your plants need. Irrigation systems and natural rain don't usually provide adequate water.

CONTACT US

Our friendly & knowledgeable staff are available to answer any watering questions you may have.

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WATERING GUIDE

How to get your
new plants to
survive and thrive.

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TREES & SHRUBS

How & Where?

Use an open-ended garden hose. The use of soaker hoses and root feeders will work, but may produce less than desirable results. Lawn sprinklers do not provide the deep soaking that trees and shrubs require.

Water directly over the root zone. Make sure water gets around entire circle of the rootball, from the base of the plant out. This means moving the hose several times.

How Much & How Often?

Watering deeply and less frequently is key to establishing new plants. Water thoroughly every 7-10 days, saturating the root zone to a depth of about 2/3rds down. Start your hose at a dribble and adjust so that it is soaking into the ground and not running off. Rotate the position of the hose to ensure even distribution. Dig around the edge of the plant's root zone to ensure water has reached correct depth.

Check the soil around your plant every 3-5 days. Allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering again. A good soaking rain of 1" or more means you can skip a watering.

Certain environmental factors may require you to water more or less depending on your plant's location. Plants in shade may not need as much as ones that are in full sun. Always check the soil regularly.

Continue watering all trees & shrubs into late fall/early winter, until the ground freezes. That is usually in early December.

Evergreens

Be particularly vigilant with evergreens. They do not wilt like deciduous plants do, so their need for water isn't always obvious. All evergreens need to go into winter fully watered.

Mulch – Apply a 2-3" layer of mulch around trees and shrubs to help hold in soil moisture. Keep mulch a few inches away from the base of the plants.

PERENNIALS & ANNUALS

Watering wands or hose sprayers work the best. Focus on watering the soil at the root zone of the plant, and avoid wetting the leaves when possible. Plants need about an inch or two of water per week, to a depth of 8-12".

Soaker hoses are another effective method of watering, keeping water off the leaves of plants and concentrating it at the root zone.

Pay attention to conditions such as soil composition, sunlight and wind. These factors will cause planting areas to dry out faster or stay saturated longer.



WATERING TIPS:

- ◆ Check soil moisture often
- ◆ Water deeply
- ◆ Water soil, not foliage
- ◆ Don't rely on rain
- ◆ Don't let the soil dry out completely