

WATERING GUIDELINES

Factors that Affect Watering Schedules

The amount of water that your plants need each week is dependent on soil type, temperature, recent rainfall, and how long the plants have been in the ground. Sandy soils require more frequent watering and clay soils require less frequent watering. High temperatures, high winds, and less precipitation will require more watering of your plants. Newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials will require more frequent watering.

How to Determine if your Plants Need Watering:

- A good general rule of thumb is to take your finger and probe into the ground about 1 inch deep. If the soil is moist then check again for dryness a couple of days later. If the soil is dry make sure you water the plant deeply.
- Make sure you check not only the soil around the newly planted plant but the soil in the original rootball of the plant. It is possible that the soil around the original rootball is wet while the soil in the rootball is dry.

How to Water Properly

- The correct way to water your plants is to run your hose with a gentle stream the size of a pencil or use a watering wand and place the hose at the base of the shrub or perennial. Let the hose run until the soil is saturated.
- When watering trees make sure to move the hose around the drip line (below the tips of the branches) and water in several places, unless the tree is new. If the tree is newly planted, you will want to place the hose at the base of the tree.
- It is critical to water at the base and not get the foliage of the plant wet. Consistent moisture on the leaves of the plant, especially during hot and humid weather, can cause disease.
- Watering plants is not an exact science and the best way to ensure that they are getting the proper amount is to check the soil by hand or with a moisture probe.
- Remember that over watered plants show the same symptoms as plants that are dry. However, over watered plants have roots that have rotted as well.

General Watering Guidelines:

Purchase a watering wand and water at the base of all plants. Water new plants two times per week for the first two weeks after planting and then once a week.

Large Deciduous Trees

- 3-5 Minutes at Full Stream
- The length per tree will vary, watch when water emerges to the surface and no longer soaks in

Deciduous Shrubs

- Two good soakings per week for 30 seconds to one minute

Junipers

- One good soaking per week

Yews

- Once a week in a mulched bed

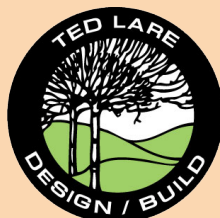
Perennials

- 20-30 seconds two to three times per week
- Some perennials will need more water than others, watch for wilting
- Perennials are very fragile plants, always water from the base

Ground Covers

- Three times per week or every other day

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