



Watering Guide

TREES & SHRUBS

Trees and shrubs have varied watering needs depending on many factors including the type of plant, its age, soil conditions, sun exposure, wind conditions, temperatures, and rainfall. An even and thorough soaking to a depth of 6" to 8" is recommended to ensure moisture penetration to the entire root system. In order to achieve this, either a soaker hose around the base of the plant or a garden hose running at a slow trickle can be used. A general timeline is 20 to 30 minutes of soaking for shrubs or one hour for a tree. To check soil moisture, a stick can be pushed 6" to 8" into the ground near the base of the plant. If the stick comes out clean, the soil is too dry and more water is needed. Soaking should be done about once a week depending on weather conditions. Remember that overwatering can be just as harmful as underwatering.

GROUNDCOVERS & PERENNIALS

Groundcovers and perennials should be checked for watering every other day for the first month after planting. If the plant needs water, a thorough soaking is recommended. Once established, one inch of water per week is sufficient.

SHRUB ROSES

Water shrub roses such as Knock Out varieties regularly (as often as twice a week) until established and then during any extended dry periods. Apply water to the root zone only and not over the top of the plant which can lead to leaf spot and disease.

LAWNS

Newly seeded lawns should be kept moist, but not wet, by watering just until slight puddling occurs. Once the new grass becomes more established, watering frequency can be systematically reduced over several weeks. This allows the roots to strengthen and adapt to more normal conditions. Be cautious not to overwater your lawn (large puddles) or underwater (dried out brown turf or cracks in soil).

Newly laid sod should be watered immediately and then soaked daily for the first few weeks after installation. Watering with a lawn sprinkler for 20 to 30 minutes per area will insure that the water soaks through the sod to the undersoil where it is needed for proper root development. Pay close attention to the corners as they are easily missed.