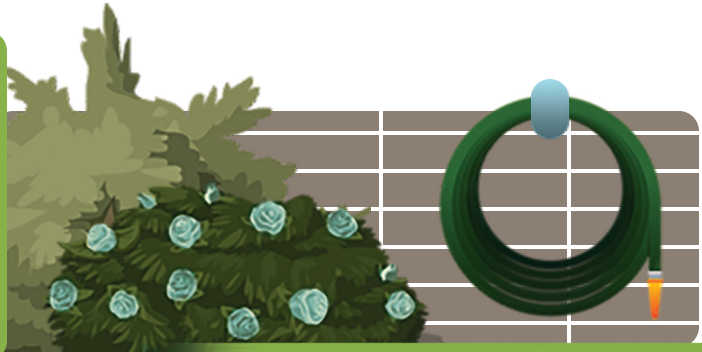


HOW TO WATER YOUR NEW PLANTS



Congratulations on beautifying your outdoor living space with new plantings! Your plants are all top-quality material and have been carefully selected to do well in their new environment, whether it is a shade garden or a full-sun exposure. The first requirement for any newly-planted landscape plant to thrive is water. Here are some helpful guidelines for watering to have success for your new landscape:

1. Natural rainfall does not always supply enough moisture to help the roots to grow and get established. It's up to you to supply what Mother Nature does not, especially in hot, sunny, or windy conditions. An old rule-of-thumb is that 1" or more of natural rainfall in a week is adequate for most plants after they have been in the ground for a year. Until then, water!
2. Since we can't count on regular rainfall, please monitor the weather and water thoroughly and deeply about three times a week for the first month or so, if there is no rain. The first few weeks are critical for new plants, especially smaller plants like perennials, that can dry out quickly.
3. Plants absorb water through roots, not leaves, so focus on moistening the soil to the depth of the rootball to encourage new root development. The goal is to water deeply to help your plants to grow deep roots, so that they are better able to handle any dry periods.
4. For trees, set a hose on a slow trickle at the base of the trunk and let it run for 15-20 minutes. For smaller plants, such as small shrubs, perennials, and grasses, water by hand or with a sprinkler or soaker hoses so that the soil is deeply moistened. Between waterings, let the soil dry out somewhat so the surface of the soil under the mulch is slightly dry before watering again.
5. After the first month, you can cut back on the frequency of watering to twice a week, but be mindful of hot and dry conditions, especially in mid-summer. Wilting can be a sign that water is needed. However, some plants wilt in hot sun, even if the soil is moist (Big-Leaf Hydrangeas), so it is best to pull the mulch aside and feel the soil to be sure. Too much water can be harmful.
6. When cooler weather and more plentiful rain arrives in fall, watering once a week is usually adequate. Give any evergreens a final deep watering before the soil freezes, so they go into winter well-hydrated.

