



WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Now that we have installed your new plants, it is very important that they are watered regularly. New plants and newly transplanted plants are especially vulnerable to shock from heat and drought. The root system that supplies the plant with water and nutrients is developing and must grow into the surrounding soil. Moisture is essential to this process. If there is no soaking rain for more than two days you must supply the plants with adequate water. Keep in mind regular and correct watering is essential to the proper maintenance of plant material. Watering deeply and less frequently encourages strong root growth and is preferred over frequent, shallow watering. If you are using a sprinkler or oscillator to water, make sure it is covering the entire area. If it is not, you will have to move it periodically to supply adequate water. If you are using a hose directly, we recommend attaching a nozzle or watering wand to decrease water pressure and prevent soil erosion. Please use the following recommendations to water your new plants and do not rely on your automatic irrigation system to provide adequate water to new or transplanted plants during the first year. Periodically, you will have to supplement with hand watering.

Shrubs and Trees: Water three or four times a week. It is important that the whole root ball is watered. When watering directly from a hose, apply water to the roots until the water begins to puddle. Then move to another plant to let the water soak into the soil of the first plant. It is best to go over plants several times for a total of five minutes for each plant. Avoid run-off as it wastes water and erodes the mulch layer and soil around the plant. When using a sprinkler or soaker hose to cover large areas of new plantings, leave it on for two to three hours.

Perennial and Annual Flowers: Water three or four times a week. Plants should be watered for five to ten minutes with a hose and nozzle, or one to two hours if you are using a sprinkler. Again, avoid run-off as it wastes water and erodes the mulch layer and soil around the plant. Remember to water plants in intervals to allow the water to thoroughly soak the soil. Plants in pots should be checked every day and watered as soon as the soil becomes dry.

Sod: Water a minimum of four times a week. Daily watering is best because of the shallow roots. Use a sprinkler for 20 to 30 minutes each day or for 40 to 50 minutes four times a week. Early morning irrigation is recommended so the grass is not wet during warm nights. Watering late in the day or in the evening can promote the growth of lawn fungus. Walk over the sod and reduce the amount of water to obviously saturated areas. Once the sod has firmly rooted in, watering twice a week for 40-50 minutes should be sufficient.

Lawns with Overseeding: It is better to use a sprinkler with new seed to prevent it from washing away. Water twice daily for about 10 minutes on each area. Early morning and early evening irrigation is recommended. It is very important to keep germinating seed moist at all times. Once the new seed has grown for six to eight weeks and been mowed once or twice, watering twice a week for 40 to 50 minutes should be sufficient.