

Watering Tips: Trees and Shrubs

If you have any irrigation system, make sure it is properly adjusted. If you don't have an irrigation system, follow the steps below for beautiful trees and shrubs.

Initial Watering

Begin "flooding in" all of your new plants as soon as we've finished mulching, being careful not to skip any. **NO ONE HAS EVER KILLED THEIR PLANTS BY GIVING THEM TOO MUCH WATER THE FIRST WEEK.** We have found the following procedure to work the best.

1. Gather enough garden hose to reach all the plants and remove any sprayer type attachments.
2. Adjust the water to about 1/2 of full flow.
3. Lay the end of the hose at the base of the first plant and let it run for about 5-15 min. before moving it to the next plant.

The exact amount of time required varies somewhat, according to the size of the plant, how close together the plants are spaced, and how level the planting area is. **DO NOT LET THE WATER WASH MULCH AND SOIL AWAY FROM THE PLANT.**

Repeat the Process

The above procedure should be repeated in 3-4 days. In some cases these first two soakings may be the only watering you'll ever need to do.

Watering After the First Week

After the initial soakings, **CHECK** the plants every 3-4 days and water only if they're dry. Feel the soil below the mulch. If it is damp, don't water. The soil around the plants should feel dry for a couple weeks before you need to water. Soak when you do water, but don't water again until dry. Make sure you check plants on different sides of the house, in raised bed areas, and low areas. Some plants may need watered when others don't. **OVER WATERING LANDSCAPE PLANTS AFTER THE INITIAL "SOAK IN" IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF PLANT DECLINE AND DEATH.**

Don't Overwater

Only water when absolutely necessary, but soak'em when you do. Pay special attention in the hot summer months and in early winter prior to the ground freezing. After the first year, watering may only be necessary during extended summer dry periods and perhaps in early winter depending on precipitation. Whenever you water, slow thorough soaking as described above is preferred. Frequent light sprinkling tends to spread plant diseases.

No one has ever killed their plants by giving them too much water the first week...

Only water when absolutely necessary...
