WATERING GUIDE

Congratulations on your new plant installation! Here is a list of some frequently asked questions that we get regarding watering your new plants. If you have further questions, feel free to give us a call.

Why is watering so important?
Proper watering of newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials is very important to their success. They can be stressed by windy conditions or high temperatures. Monitor them closely to keep them moist.

How do I know when my plants need water?
Pull the mulch away from the base of the plant. Put your finger in the soil a couple inches below the soil surface. If the soil feels dry or is hard to penetrate with your finger, it needs water. Good indicators of dry plant conditions are wilting, sagging or worst case scenario crispy leaves.

What is the best method to water my plants?
The best method of watering is to use an open-ended hose, not a sprinkler. Since plants prefer a slow soaking, turn on the water to a slow trickle, and water at the base of the plant. Do not water the leaves.

How much water do I give my plants?
A thorough soaking will take from 30 seconds for small plants to 2-3 minutes for larger shrubs and trees. A general rule of thumb is to water small plants for 30 seconds (about ½ gallon of water) each. Water medium sized plants for 60 seconds (about 1 gallon of water) each. And water large plants for 2 minutes (about 3 gallons of water) each. Avoid excess watering which can lead to runoff. Studies have shown that watering by hand is not only better for the plants, but also uses far less water than a sprinkler.

What time of the day should I water?
Most often the best time of day to water is early morning, before the heat of the day has set in. This reduces the amount of water lost through evaporation, and also provides water for the plants to help them get through the heat of the day.

How often should I water?
Water plants deeply two to three times a week during the first growing season. Depending on weather conditions and what season we are in, this rule may change. Perennials and annuals may require more than this especially in the summer since they have a much smaller root ball. Trees, especially, need deep watering. Usually once per a week is sufficient. When in doubt, check the soil as mentioned above.

How long do I have to keep up this watering schedule?
It is very important that plants receive the proper amount of moisture for the first four to eight weeks after planting to get them established.

What other tips will help my new plants thrive?
It is very important that plants receive the proper amount of moisture for the first four to eight weeks after planting to get them established. If you need an automated system set up in your beds, talk with us about installing a drip system. One of the most beneficial things you can do for your plants is mulching around trees and plantings. Mulch will save water and help keep your plants healthy.

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