

New Plant Care Instructions

Congratulation on your newly installed plants. These plants have one basic need that must be provided to them by the homeowner, Water.

Homeowner's responsibility to **WATER**

Water is the most important need of any landscape plant. In general, plants need approximately 1 inch of water per week. The best way to water plants is with a slow trickle of water that soaks deeply into the soil to reach all of the roots for 30 minutes to an hour, depending on the size of the plant. Make sure the water is not running off away from the roots of the plant. The easiest method of watering perennials and shrubs is with a soaker hose placed close to the stems of the plants. Run for about 30 minutes a day in the early morning or late evening. If a sprinkler is used, it is best to water early in the morning.

In order to test the moisture of the soil, use the finger test. Stick your finger through the mulch and into the soil to a depth of three inches. If the soil feels moist, do not water. If it feels dry, then water is needed. Do not wait to water until the leaves are wilting, as this causes too much stress on the plants. If your soil is heavy clay, be careful not to over water, as clay soils do not drain well, and too much water can be just as detrimental as not enough water. Soil conditions can vary greatly around your house and depending on the amount of sunlight plants receive some plants may need watered more often than others. Watering needs also vary through the seasons of the year.

Spring - In a normal spring, rainfall will take care of most of the watering needs. Check the soil 1 or 2 times a week through the end of May using the finger test. Pay particular attention to first year plants.

Summer is the most important time of year to check the soil for moisture. With newly installed plants the soil needs to be checked at least twice a week, and in especially dry conditions, three to four times per week. After the first year the soil should be checked once a week. If watering in the heat of the day, it is important not to spray the water over the top of shrubs and trees as it will scorch the leaves. Early morning or late evening water is best for the plants.

Fall - This season is often ignored. It is important to keep the plants watered in September and October to ensure that the plants are not stressed going into winter. Check the soil once a week.