

The most common cause of new plants failing in the landscape is improper watering. Water is the single most essential resource for new plants growth and survival. Too much water will displace oxygen in the soil and cause the plant to slowly suffocate. Too little water will cause tender roots to dry out and die, causing the plant to fail. While watering is extremely important in establishing new plants, you should not make it complicated. Follow this guide to ensure your new plants get off to a healthy start.

Plants are an investment and our goal is to protect your investment. Weather siting, and other factors affect how much water your plant(s) need; irrigation system and natural rain don't usually provide adequate water.



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Plant Watering Guide



*How to get your new
plants to survive and
thrive*

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Proper Watering

Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

How?

Use an open-ended garden hose. The use of soaker hoses and root feeders will work but may produce less than desirable results.

Where?

Water does not move sideways in soil very well, so to be effective you must water directly over the area where you need the water to go. For new plants this is directly over the root zone and the planting area. Place the open end of the garden hose a few inches off the base of the tree where the trunk meets the soil.

How Much?

Watering deeply and less frequently is key to establishing new plants. The rate of flow should be when the water is flowing into the soil and not running off the surface. Water until the root zone is saturated to a depth of 12-18". Rotate the position of the hose during your watering to ensure even distribution. The only way to truly tell if you have achieved this, is to dig around the plant and check. If there has been one inch of rain or more that will constitute as a watering.

How Often?

Check the soil around your plant frequently, about every 3 to 5 days. Allowing the soil to dry slightly is ideal before adding more water. Certain environmental factors may cause you to have to water more or less depending on your plant's location. Plants in the shade may not need as much water as plants that are in full sun. You will have to dig around the plant to accurately determine what is happening to the soil. Continue this until the ground has begun to freeze.

Evergreen Trees, Shrubs and Broadleaved Evergreens

How?

Use an open-ended garden hose. The use of soaker hoses and root feeders will work but may produce less than desirable results.

Where?

Lay the garden hose at the base of the plant over the root ball/root zone. Do not water at the drip line of the tree. Keep the hose as close to the trunk as possible. Move the hose half way through watering to ensure even distribution.

How Much?

Watering deeply and less frequently is key to being successful in establishing new plants. The rate of flow should be at a rate of which the water is flowing into the root zone and not rushing off the top of the soil surface. Do this to a point to where the root zone is 2/3rds saturated. The only way to truly tell if you have achieved this, is to dig around the plant and check.

How Often?

Check the soil around your plant frequently. Allowing the soil to dry slightly is ideal before adding more water. Certain environmental factors may cause you to have to water more or less depending on your plant's location. Plants in the shade may not need as much water as plants that are in full sun. You will have to dig around the plant to accurately determine what is happening to the soil. Continue this until the ground has begun to freeze.

Evergreens do not wilt like deciduous plants. So it is important to check your evergreens regularly. If you miss too many watering's the effects wont show until it is too late.

Perennials and Annuals

How?

Overhead watering sources. Sprinklers, watering wands work the best.

Where?

Concentrate on watering the root zone of the plant as best as possible.

How Much?

One to two inches of water per week or to a depth of 8-12".

How Often?

Pay attention to conditions like soil composition, sunlight and wind. These factors will cause planting areas to dry out faster or stay saturated longer.

Signs of Moisture Stress

Plants will tell you when they aren't happy. Here are some warning signs to look out for:

- Curling leaves
- Shiny leave grow dull
- Bright green leaves lose color
- New growth wilts or drops
- Older (interior leaves/needles) turn brown and drop
- Flowers fade quickly or prematurely

If you see any of these symptoms, check your soil moisture to a depth of 12" to determine if the plant needs more or less water.