

Watering and care sheet for installed or transplanted plants

If a problem with your plants should arise, it should be reported to us immediately by calling (540) 974-8007. Sending us pictures via text or email can help quickly diagnose a problem.

Watering Intervals

Newly installed and transplanted plants require more frequent watering than established ones. They should be watered at planting time and at the following frequencies:

- ❖ 7-14 days after planting, water daily.
- ❖ 3-12 weeks after planting, water every 2 to 3 days.
- ❖ After 12 weeks, water weekly until roots are established.

*These times and intervals can vary depending on your climate and soil type.

For trees, its size will determine how long until the roots are established. Measuring the caliper (the diameter) of the trunk 6-12" from the base will help determine this.

- ❖ 1", 1.5-2 years
- ❖ 2", 3-4 years
- ❖ 3", 5-6 years

For shrubs & perennials, the size of its pot will help determine this.

- ❖ 1-3 gallons, 1 year
- ❖ 5 gallons and up, 1.5-3 years

How Much to Water

For trees, its size will dictate how many gallons you should apply during each watering. Measuring the caliper (the diameter) of the trunk 6-12" from the base will help determine this.

- ❖ 1" – 2 gallons
- ❖ 2" – 3 gallons
- ❖ 3" – 5 gallons

For trees, shrubs and perennials based on container size, this can be determined by applying 1/3 the volume of water the container the plant came in. For example, a shrub that came in a 15 gallon container would require 5 gallons.

*These amounts can vary depending on your soil type, climate, and placement in the landscape.

Sprinklers are designed to water turf grass, not trees. Driplines, bubblers, soakers, and direct watering with a hose or bucket are the best methods. Slow, soaking of water directly near the root system is ideal.

Winter Watering

After the first frost date, your plants will not need as much water. The soil though will need water to keep the soil insulated, protecting the roots from freezing temperatures.

Water once a month to keep the soil moist and insulated during snowless winters. Winter watering can help prevent winter kill, sun scald, and trunk cracking. Watering on warm (plus 35 degree) winter days is highly recommended.

Maximizing Water Uptake

Apply a 1-2" layer of organic mulch (wood chips, bark, etc.) around the soil surrounding the plants, leaving the trunk bare. This will prevent water from evaporating from the soil and prevent fluctuations in soil temperature. Rocks can heat the soil causing water loss to evaporation and unwanted warming of soil. Mulch will help prevent excessive water loss and sun scald.

Things to look for

- ❖ Wilting is often a sign of lack of water. If wilting still occurs 24 hours after a thorough soaking of the plant, please contact us.
- ❖ Leaf drop, brown tips and leaf curling are also signs of underwatering.
- ❖ Evergreen trees and shrubs will lose needles along with brown needles.



- ❖ Inspect new plantings periodically for signs of pest and/or disease damage (splotchy leaves, split bark, egg clusters, etc.). Consult with us at the first sign of duress.



Fertilization

Do not fertilize shrubs or trees for at least one full year following installation. After one year you may fertilize annually in the spring with a slow-release fertilizer. A thin layer of compost around the base of most plants each year is a great addition to fertilizer.

Useful Links

Tree and shrub Pruning-

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/430/430-462/SPES-323.pdf

Resources for insects and pests-

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html?tag=pubs_ext_vt_edu:garden-insects-pests#.html

Tree and shrub fertilization-

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/spes/spes-397/SPES-397.pdf

Diagnosing Plant Problems-

https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-714/426-714.pdf

We hope that this information is helpful and informative for your new and existing shrubbery and trees. If there are any questions or if you are just unsure of something, we encourage you to call, text or email us. Thank you for allowing us to care for your outside needs!

Landcare Property Maintenance

www.landcarelandscape.com

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