

Watering Instructions for new Trees and Shrubs

Procedure

Use a low-volume soaker hose or sprinkler that will not compact the soil. Water very slowly at the base of the newly planted trees or shrubs. Use a watering wand or open end hose on a very slow trickle and leave it at the base of the plants until the soil is moist.

Frequency

Less frequent, deeper soakings help promote root growth as the tree seeks water in the surrounding soil. Water new plants thoroughly (slow soaking) separated by a day or two for perennials and 3 to 5 days for shrubs and trees. Annuals should be watered daily. After the first 4 weeks, water less frequently but continue checking the soil.

Amount

During the first growing season, your plants should receive about an inch of water per week through rainfall and/or irrigation. Rainfall is usually not sufficient. Thorough, slow watering is effective. Frequent, light sprinklings does not provide sufficient water for plants to grow roots, get established and thrive.

Droughts

In hot, dry seasons, even established trees and shrubs benefit from watering. Examine your plants for wilt (drooping leaves) and water when necessary. If the soil stays muddy instead of moist this may indicate a drainage problem.



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Wilting leaves are signs that your trees are thirsty.