

Watering Instructions

Annual Flowers: Lack of sufficient water is the main reason annuals do not survive. These plants have a very small root system when planted and will dry out very quickly when not properly watered. Your annuals were watered when they were installed, but will need watering regularly from this point on. During the cool periods (below 70 degrees), water once a week or when the soil dries out to a depth of 3 inches. When the weather is hot and dry the flowers should be closely watched. They need water three times a week (more in a raised planter). If you observe any wilting, water immediately! Annuals should be watered to a depth of 8 inches to promote a deep, healthy root system. Light, surface watering promotes a shallow root system which makes the plants susceptible to damage during short dry spells. Avoid watering in the hot part of the day. Early to mid morning is best.

Perennial Flowers and Groundcover: Lack of sufficient water immediately after transplanting has a dramatic effect on the long term health of perennials and groundcover. The plants installed today were watered, initially. If temperatures are below 70 degrees during the warmest part of the day, your plants require watering two to three times per week for the next four weeks. If temperatures are above 70, watering may be necessary every other day. Slow, even watering is best to distribute the moisture to a depth of 6–8 inches. This will promote a deep healthy root system. After the initial four week period, the top 6 inches of soil should remain moist for survival. If you observe any wilting, water immediately!

Trees and Shrubs: The most important principle to remember when watering newly transplanted trees and shrubs is that you must provide water deep to the root system. More plants are lost because water is provided on the soil surface only, never reaching the roots. Your plants were watered today after they were installed. The best way to provide water to the roots is with a simple root feeder. Use the root feeder to water each plant once a week if it is an evergreen and twice a week if it is deciduous (has leaves). Each shrub should receive 5-7 minutes of water. Each tree should receive 10-15 minutes of water using three locations around the root ball at 5 minutes each. If a root feeder is unavailable, a slow trickle watering is preferred over fast high volume watering. If you notice any wilting of the leaves or color change in the evergreens and feel you have been watering adequately, please discontinue and call us immediately.

Seeded Areas: Newly planted grass seed is a special blend of turf-grass varieties suited for the location. Proper care must be given to these seeds to enable them to germinate and become healthy. Newly planted seed in the soil in which it was sown must be kept moist consistently for germination to occur. This may require watering daily for the first two weeks. The key is to make sure the top 1-2 inches of soil is moist. Slow, gentle watering is necessary as not to erode or disturb the seed bed with too strong of a force from the water. Early morning watering is recommended with early evening as an acceptable alternative.

Sod: The one thing to remember about newly laid sod is that if the sod dries out its shallow root system, it will not survive. This root system is normally no more than 1/2-3/4" thick. The quickest way for these roots to begin penetrating the surface soil is to keep both the root system and the top 1-2 inches of soil moist at all times. This normally requires water every day for the first 7-10 days (twice a day if temperatures are above 70 degrees). Then reduce to 3 times per week. Sod must be soaked thoroughly at every watering. Check the depth of the moisture by lifting up a corner of the sod to be sure water is reaching the surface soil. If the blades of the sod are very hot to the touch during the heat of the day, or you notice a pale green or yellow color, apply water immediately.

