



DETAILED WATERING & CARE REFERENCE GUIDE:

Please note: Each category below has different watering requirements!

- 1.) *Newly Installed Landscaping – New trees, shrubs & annual flowers*
- 2.) *Newly Installed Sod*
- 3.) *Newly Seeded/Renovated Lawns*
- 4.) *Established Trees & Shrubs (in the ground for more than a year or two)*
- 5.) *Established Grass*

1.) Newly Installed Landscaping – New trees, shrubs & annual flowers:

A.) Watering Info: Please water NEW flowers and NEW plants as needed throughout the spring & summer until November. You can scale back watering considerably one year after planting; this applies to trees, shrubs, and perennials. Annual flowers will need constant monitoring and watering as weather and soil conditions dictate.

◆ **To determine whether or not you need to water:**

- 1.) *Use your hand, spade or another tool to dig into soil 3 – 6 inches around the plant*
- 2.) *Check the soil conditions with your hand*
- 3.) *If damp, moist & cool then watering is not needed*
- 4.) *Please be aware that over-watering can and will kill plants!*
- 5.) *If dry & crumbly then deep watering is needed*



◆ **General rule of thumb is to water thoroughly 1 – 3 times a week during hot, dry, windy weeks (May – October) – depending on rainfall that week and irrigation coverage.**

- 1.) *Remember this only applies to plants installed within the past year only. Established (over a year old) plants don't need constant monitoring and watering and can take dry periods to a certain extent. The exception to this rule is annuals which will need constant monitoring.*
- 2.) *Please use the above referenced technique to determine watering needs.*

◆ **Attention Commercial clients:** Make sure to water (by hand or an irrigation system) as needed on Friday and Monday so the plants don't dry out over the weekend especially if the forecast is hot and dry. Remember that containers/pots will need more water than plants in the ground.

◆ **Please keep in mind that hand watering may be required as a supplement to your irrigation system. In many cases the irrigation systems do not put out enough water and can be inconsistent and unreliable for watering new plants deeply and thoroughly. One option is to have your irrigation company adjust the system and add heads as needed.**

◆ **Please instruct the person performing the watering that they must water at a slow to medium rate so that the water & mulch do not run off. Deep watering is important & the person watering should check deep into the soil (3" -6") to make sure proper moisture is being provided. Checking the soil just after watering will tell the person whether or not they are watering properly.**

2.) Newly Installed Sod:

A.) Watering Info: Newly laid sod needs to be **heavily watered every day** for the first 3 weeks. To ensure proper watering of sod you will need to lift up random sections and check to see that water has gone all the way through the sod but also has begun to soak the original soil that the sod sits on. You may return to normal watering (see #5) after approximately 3 weeks.

B.) Mowing Info: You need to avoid mowing the new sod until it has taken firm root. In order to test how the sod is doing, try and lift up sections of the sod, when you can no longer lift the majority of the sodded areas then it is okay to mow.

C.) Traffic: It is recommended that you limit your traffic over the new areas to best avoid damaging the sod. Kids and Pets are especially important to watch as unnecessary traffic can damage the lawn.





3.) Newly Seeded/Renovated Lawns:

- A.) Watering Info:** **Light**, frequent watering is necessary for optimum seed germination. This means keeping the soil lightly moist – *but not sopping wet* – for approximately 4 weeks. Do this by watering **lightly** 1-2 times per day for 5-10 minutes per area (depending on the type of sprinkler, soil conditions, sun exposure, etc). After four weeks, please resume regular watering per #5.
- B.) Traffic:** It is recommended that you limit your traffic over the new areas to best avoid damaging the new seedlings.



4.) Established Trees & Shrubs:

- A.) Watering Info:** Trees & shrubs that have been in the ground for more than a year or two do not need anywhere near the amount that new plantings need. In fact, many plant problems arise from overwatering and *not* under watering. **Only** water during dry spells, intense heat (summertime) and droughts. Infrequent, heavier watering (1-2+ times a week) is recommended versus frequent, light watering (every day) for your trees & shrubs. If you have an irrigation system you do not need to water much, if at all, from November through April as long as there is average rainfall. You may need to water thoroughly 1-2 times a week from May through October depending on the weather. *There will be many weeks where you will not have to water at all!* Please use the watering guidelines below to assess your soil conditions to see if you need to water.

- ◆ **To determine whether or not you need to water:**
 - 1.) Use your hand to dig into soil 3 – 6 inches around the plant
 - 2.) Check the soil conditions with your hand
 - 3.) If damp, moist & cool then watering is not needed
 - 4.) Please be aware that over-watering can and will kill plants!
 - 5.) If dry & crumbly then deep watering is needed
- ◆ **General rule of thumb is to water thoroughly 1 – 2+ times a week during hot, dry, windy weeks (May – October) – depending on rainfall that week and irrigation coverage.**
 - 1.) Please keep in mind that shaded areas require less water!
 - 2.) Please use the above referenced technique to determine watering needs.
- ◆ **Please keep in mind that hand watering may be required as a supplement to your irrigation system. In many cases the irrigation systems do not put out enough water and can be inconsistent and unreliable for watering new plants deeply and thoroughly. One option is to have your irrigation company adjust the system and add heads as needed.**
- ◆ **Please instruct the person performing the watering that they must water at a slow to medium rate so that the water & mulch do not run off. Deep watering is important & the person watering should check deep into the soil (3"-6") to make sure proper moisture is being provided. Checking the soil just after watering will tell the person whether or not they are watering properly.**



5.) Established Grass:

- A.) Watering Info:** You do not need to water much, if at all, from November through April as long as there is average rainfall. You will need to water 1-3 times a week during dry periods from May through October. In general, you should water in the early morning and **not** in the evening or at night because this will promote disease activity. Infrequent, heavier watering (1-3 times a week) is recommended versus frequent, light watering (every day) for your lawn. If you have an irrigation system, each watering episode should take approximately 20-50+ minutes per zone with rotor heads and 10-15+ minutes per zone with spray heads. Please shut your irrigation system down during wet & rainy periods.

- ◆ **To determine whether or not you need to water your lawn:**
 - 1.) Use a spade, screwdriver or a soil probe to see if you've soaked the soil to the proper depth.
 - 2.) The probe will slide through wet soil but will be difficult or impossible to push through dry soil.
- ◆ **There will be times during droughts and hot, dry summers where the irrigation system doesn't cover thoroughly resulting in localized dry spots in your lawn. These irrigation inadequacies aren't apparent during wet cycles as the natural rainfall camouflages these areas. You will only notice the areas that don't get adequate irrigation coverage during droughts and other hot, dry periods (typically between May-Oct). You may see dry, brown areas on your lawn during these periods.**
- ◆ **Please keep in mind that hand watering may be required as a supplement to your irrigation system. In many cases the irrigation systems do not put out enough water and can be inconsistent and unreliable for watering new plants deeply and thoroughly. One option is to have your irrigation company adjust the system and add heads as needed.**
- ◆ **General rule of thumb is to water enough to soak down to the depth of the new roots without too much run-off. Please keep in mind that shaded areas require less water!**

