



Watering Guidelines for ESTABLISHED Gardens

Sprinkler Attached to Garden Hose

Water is the essential ingredient to creating a beautiful, thriving garden. It is the responsibility of our clients to water their plants. We have created this guide to help you properly water your garden throughout the gardening season.

Watering Guidelines for Established Gardens

The objective in watering established plantings is to encourage the roots to grow deeply. Instead of keeping the garden evenly moist as you did when the plants were new, alternate deep water with a drying period. As the surface becomes slightly dry, the roots are forced to grow deeper to reach the moist soil below. The dry period is just as important as the wet period.

How Long Should I Water the Garden?

There is no set answer, because the number of minutes needed depends on water pressure and the design of your sprinkler.

Typical running time for a sprinkler attached to a hose ranges from 45 minutes up to 2 hours.

What If the Garden Seems Too Dry Before the Next Watering Day?

If the garden was not kept evenly moist at the beginning of the season, the roots may be underdeveloped and not ready to adapt to the Watering Guidelines for Established Gardens. In this case, go back to the Watering Guidelines for New Plantings until the roots have spread.

If you are confident that the garden was watered correctly during the New Plantings phase, stay on the 3-4 day schedule. Increase the amount of water the plants are getting by running the sprinkler longer or watering twice in the same day.

Why Not Water More Frequently?

Frequent watering will promote shallow roots. Your plants will look great this year, but will not develop a deep healthy root system to survive the winter and thrive next year.

How Often Should I Water During the Spring Months?

Existing gardens follow guidelines for New Plantings every year until the 4th of July.

How Often Should I Water During the Summer & Fall Months?

Water deeply once every 3-4 days summer - fall. Sometimes 2 shorter sessions in the same day (morning and afternoon) will soak more deeply than 1 long watering session.

How Late Into Fall Should I Water?

If conditions are dry, continue watering through October.

Is it Okay to Hand Hold a Hose and Spray the Garden?

Although many people find it restful and therapeutic to personally water their garden, the water does not soak deeply enough, even if water is pooling on the surface. It would take hours of going back and forth to adequately water. Sprinklers were invented to do this for us.

In a very small garden where sprinklers are impractical, let the water run out of the hose very slowly at the base of each plant. Move the hose every 5 to 10 minutes.

