



Watering Guidelines for NEW Plantings

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 New Plantings

The objective in watering new plantings is to keep the soil slightly moist to encourage the roots to spread and grow out of the root ball. The plants should not wilt or be stressed by lack of water. However, keeping the soil consistently soggy will cause the roots to rot. Too much water at this stage can actually be as damaging as lack of water.

How Often Should I Water?

There is no set rule for keeping a garden evenly moist, because weather conditions vary.

- △ During a cool May, two light waterings (spaced more or less evenly apart) per week may be sufficient.
- △ A garden planted in mid summer may need water every day for the first week or two.
- △ If there is a week of rainy weather, you won't need to irrigate at all.

Be aware of weather conditions, water as needed. If you baby your plants at this stage, your garden will be off to a great start and will require less attention in the following months.

How Do I Water New Shrubs?

New shrubs need to be watered 2 - 3 times per week.

Let a hose run slowly at the base of each shrub for 10 - 15 minutes.

To water a group of shrubs at the same time, wind a soaker hose around the shrubs and let it run for 1 - 2 hours.

What Are New Plantings?

Gardens are considered new for the **first 6 weeks**. If all the plants are not planted on the same day, start counting 6 weeks after the last plants are put in the ground.

How Do I Water Gardens Newly Planted In Hot Summer Weather?

Check the soil every day to monitor moisture.

Feel at the base of the plants--not the soil in the spaces between plants.

In hot weather the root balls may be dry, even though the surrounding soil is moist. New plants are not able to pull water from the surrounding soil until the roots start to grow and spread out of the root balls.

If the root balls have been allowed to become excessively dry, they will not absorb water readily. Use a hose to water slowly at the base of each plant, moving from plant to plant. Return to each plant 3 or 4 times until all the root balls are thoroughly soaked.

Once the plants are hydrated, adjust your watering schedule to provide more water. Add watering days, increase length of time or do both.

