



WATERING

Shrubs

Water shrub deeply upon installation. Newly planted shrubs require water frequently - maybe every 2-4 days until roots begin to spread. They need just enough water to wet the original root ball completely; too much too often will cause the roots to stand in water and exclude oxygen needed by the roots and the shrub will die. Check moisture level by inserting a screwdriver 6-8 inches deep. If soil sticking to screwdriver is moist, the shrub does not require water that day – check again in a day or two.

Field Grown Trees

Water deeply upon installation. Balled & burlapped trees typically require a deep soaking every 10 days during the growing season. The idea is to water the entire root ball not just the top inch or two. Watering the grass only will cause the tree to die from dehydration. The tree MUST be soaked slowly and deeply with the garden hose on trickle for 1-2 hours. Check moisture level by inserting a screwdriver 6-8 inches deep. If soil sticking to screwdriver is moist, the tree does not require water that day – check again in a day or two.

Container Grown Trees

Water tree deeply upon installation. Container grown trees require water frequently - maybe every 2-4 days until roots begin to spread. They need just enough water to wet the original root ball for a while; too much too often will cause the roots to stand in water and exclude oxygen needed by the roots and the tree will die. Check moisture level by inserting a screwdriver 6-8 inches deep. If soil sticking to screwdriver is moist, the tree does not require water that day – check again in a day or two.

Herbaceous Perennials

Water regularly to keep soil evenly moist, but not soggy so as to drown the roots, for the first few weeks after planting. This can be less frequently in cooler seasons like spring or fall and more often in summer where the heat will evaporate moisture from the soil more quickly. Do not fertilize with anything for the first growing season. Compost is used in planting to slowly feed plants as well as retain moisture in surrounding soil. The best way to fertilize is with topdressing of a good compost mid-season in subsequent years.

Groundcovers

Water regularly to keep all soil in surrounding area evenly moist. Keep in mind groundcovers do not have extensive root systems at a depth more than a few inches so make sure the top layer of ground is not overly soggy or overly dry to ensure they get a good transition from container to garden bed.

Winter Watering

To protect plants and help them fair better throughout the coming months, keep roots evenly moist up until the ground freezes. For most of us this will likely be at least through the end of December. Even after the ground is frozen, during warmer days, pull out the hose and water trees and shrubs. Evergreens which continue to lose water through their needles in dry winters suffer most but newly planted trees and shrubs need that consistent moisture in order to thrive. As winter snows are cleaned off sidewalks and drives, it is OK to put excess snow around the base of plants but try to avoid blowing, shoveling and piling on top of shrubs to avoid damaging their form. Also, it is best to use only snow that has not been contaminated with salt and deicers.