



Watering Instructions for your Garden

The major cause of tree and shrub loss is insufficient or excessive watering. The site should be watered immediately after planting, and daily for the following seven days. Thereafter, the soil needs to be monitored to prevent drying out. Always deep water your plants to encourage healthy root growth.

Perennials - Please water your newly planted perennials with 2L of water per plant every day for the first 7 days. After the first week, water your perennials every few days until they are established. Let the plants dry out between watering (however, don't let them get bone-dry or wilted). Probe the soil and if it is dry in the top 4 to 5 inches, then it is time to water.

- Remember, plants may show the same symptoms from being over-watered as from being under-watered (e.g., yellow leaves and/or wilting). There is no other way to determine when a plant needs water other than to monitor the soil moisture. Late evening or nighttime watering may encourage mildew and/or fungus. Water deeply - a general rule of thumb is to a 2 inch depth of water over the entire surface.

Shrubs - Dry roots are the chief cause of planting failures. Newly planted shrubs should be watered with 10L of water per plant every day for the first seven days. Thereafter water each plant every third day. Watering should penetrate deep into the soil to encourage strong deep root development. Always check the soil before watering to make sure it is dry. The soil should not be spongy or soggy as **over-watering** can cause the plants roots to suffocate.

- Place the hose at the base of the shrub and let soak (using a soft flow that doesn't create craters in the soil or run off) for 10 minutes.
- Remember to water in the fall, before the ground freezes. This is especially important for boxwoods, azalea, rhododendron, mountain laurel and broadleaf evergreen shrubs, whose leaves lose moisture in winter.

Trees - Do not allow the roots to dry out or your tree may die. It doesn't take long for this to happen and nothing is sadder than a row of dead cedars or a leafless tree in a garden.

- Newly planted trees need 30L of water per day during the first week, and then every third day for a couple of months (based on how hot and dry the weather is). Continue to deep water once a week for the first year. In the second year you can reduce the watering to twice monthly through the late spring and summer.

- If you are going out of town, try to hire a local teen or exchange watering duties with a neighbour.
- **Never water if the soil is already soaked because trees can be over watered causing the tree roots to drown and become suffocated. Roots need air circulation to grow.**

Annuals - These plants need water to thrive. Please water them deeply after we have planted your garden, approximately with 1/2L of water per plant daily.

- Always check the soil with your finger before and after watering. We do this before you start determine whether your garden needs water (over watering can create the ideal environment for the spread of fungus diseases). You need the top 4" of soil to be moist. Always check by poking your finger into the soil to determine whether you've reached this level.

Urns - Small urns must be watered daily unless we've had significant rain. Large planters need to be watered every other day. Do not let pots dry out between watering. Let the hose run in the pot for a few minutes to ensure the soil is sufficiently moist.