

We've put together some guidelines you can use to successfully take care of your newly planted shrubs and trees as they begin to get established in their new surroundings. These are meant as a baseline with you being the most essential part. It can't be stressed enough how important watering is, especially during the first year.

1. Watering

- During the first year you'll probably need to water twice a week, except during extreme heat, when you may need to water every other day.
- Check your plants each week and water thoroughly if there hasn't been sufficient moisture. Water when the soil; at a depth of 1 to 2 inches around the plant, feels dry to the touch.
- Water each plant by placing a hose at the base, allowing the water to run slow and long enough to saturate the entire root ball. If the water runs off, just go to another plant and then come back in a few minutes.
- After the first year established plants may need to be watered every three to four weeks - generally June through September. The required frequency will vary according to soil types.
 - Heavy clay soils, for example, tend to hold water and therefore, need less water.
- Be sure to water the plants that are close to the house or beneath the overhangs where they receive little or no water.

2. Signs to watch for

- Some shrubs and trees do not tolerate wet conditions. Probably the easiest plants to kill by over watering are those in the evergreen family. They include:
 - Yews, Pines, Junipers, and broad leaf plants such as Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Boxwood and Holly, in addition to euonymus varieties and most flowering ornamental trees. This is not to say that these plants necessarily prefer dry conditions, but they seem to be severely affected by "water-logging".
- If a plant is showing signs of weakening (yellowing of leaves or needles), and you know it's not due to lack of water:
 - Dig into the soil around the ball and check to see if the root system is saturated with excess water. If it is, discontinue watering. It's suggested that the ground dry out a little between watering to allow oxygen to the roots.

3. Fertilization

- Plants can be fertilized in the spring (March through April) and in the fall (Oct. through Nov.) with a complete fertilizer that contains at least three major elements: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), and Potassium (K).
- Some fertilizers contain micro nutrients that can be deficient in some soils. Proper fertilization will promote vigorous, healthy plants. Plantings that are growing vigorously are less susceptible to an attack by insects and disease.
- Individual plant groups within your overall landscape will have different nutrient requirements. These nourishment demands may be supplied to the plants through a wide array of fertilizer materials. You should start your fertilizing program after your plants have been growing for one year.

Have a question or concern, we're here to help. Please contact us:

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