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Watering of Lawns and Plantings

Newly Seeded Lawns

Newly seeded areas should be kept moist at all times until approximately 1” of new growth is present. Allowing any area to dry out even one time during this critical period can result in the death of these tender plants.

Upon completion of seeding, thoroughly soak the lawn stopping just prior to the point where puddling or runoff would occur. **DO NOT** just wet the surface!!! Pay close attention to perimeter areas, areas near obstacles, and areas near buildings.

After the initial watering, continue to water on a daily basis, again stopping just prior to the point of puddling or runoff.

Once the lawn has grown to 1 1/2”-2”, you can reduce the frequency of your watering schedule to 1-2 times per week. The lawn will still require deep, soaking watering. This will promote a strong, healthy root system. As a guide, lawns require about 1” of water per week including rainfall.

Newly Sodded Lawns

The importance of the initial watering cannot be over emphasized. Begin watering sod immediately after it is laid. Water the sod heavily, making sure that not only the sod, but the soil below is thoroughly saturated. The sprinkler will need to be left on each spot for approximately 1 1/2 – 2 hours.

Water daily until the sod is firmly rooted, (about 2 weeks). After this less frequent but deep watering should continue. Lawns require about one inch of water per week, taking into account rainfall in the total amount.

Pay special attention to areas that are often missed or may require extra water. These include areas around buildings where reflected heat dries the lawn out more quickly. Other areas to pay extra attention to include corners and edges where sprinklers sometimes don't reach.

Established Lawns

The simplest and most reliable way to determine when it is time to water an established lawn is as soon as you notice a visual change from bright green to a dull blue-green color. This change will be evident in the most drought prone areas first, under trees, near buildings, or on slopes.

You will need to thoroughly water these areas as soon as practical. All areas should be watered to depth of 6"-8" which will require about 1" of water. To reduce the chance of promoting lawn diseases water early in the morning. Watering in the evening allows the grass to stay wet all night and encourage diseases. Avoid watering during the day as the majority of water is lost through evaporation.

Plant Material

The frequency and amount of water is dependent on the temperature and type of soil. In general, we recommend 1 thorough watering per week applying 1 inch of water. The best way to accomplish this is to set up a sprinkler for 1 1/2-2 hours in each spot. This helps insure that not only the plant but the area around it is well soaked. If this is not possible, a less preferred but still acceptable method is to place a hose at the base of the individual plant and turn it on a slow trickle, leaving it run for about 2 hours. Groundcovers and annuals should be watered in the same manner as established lawns. The main objective is to make sure the entire root ball of the plant becomes soaked, not just the top few inches of soil.

When trees, shrubs, perennials or annuals are left to dry out even 1 time, the health and vigor of the plants can be effected dramatically. Although after watering they may appear to be 'normal', the stress that was put on them may not show up until sometime down the line. Because of this we recommend paying close attention to your landscape, monitoring weather conditions, and taking preventative actions before problems arise.