

WATERING GUIDELINES

DRIP VS HAND WATERING

- ◆ Drip systems have the potential to water plants slow and steady in the recommended way. **HOWEVER**, setting all of your plants on one zone on a timer does not account for individual plant needs, soil types, exposure, etc. Be sure to monitor your plants!
- ◆ Each individual plant has different watering needs! A xeric Pinon Pine and an Autumn Blaze Maple have different watering schedules. Even two Pinon Pines in the same yard can have different schedules!
- ◆ Plants prefer being watered deeply, but **INFREQUENTLY**.
- ◆ Hand watering, though time consuming, allows you to check the plant before you water and eliminates the need for a timer. Make changes to your drip as needed and **CHECK THE SOIL!**



B&B (Balled and Burlapped) - Trees are in a wire basket and burlap sack.

- ◆ Turn your hose on a slow drip/trickle and let it soak on the highest side of the root ball for 2-4 hours.
- ◆ You want to saturate the rootball to a depth of about 18" repeat once the soil has dried.
- ◆ If you water too often and do not allow the soil to properly drain, you run the risk of suffocating your plants. Plants need oxygen too!
- ◆ The **ONLY** way to tell what a plant needs is by checking the soil.
- ◆ Watering bags and soaker hoses are great replacements for drip systems and provide good deep soaks.

CONTAINER (TREES/SHRUBS/PERENNIALS)

- ◆ When you first plant your container (or potted) tree/shrub it will dry out quicker than a B&B tree/shrub. This happens because the plant is accustomed to a lighter soil media, used in the growing container/pot. Thus, it will require more water while it grows new roots in your yard!
- ◆ Follow the same method as described above for B&B trees.
- ◆ Watering will not take as long to saturate the root ball, but **it will dry out quicker!**
- ◆ During the first 2-3 weeks you may need to water daily until your plant begins to grow new roots into your existing soil.
- ◆ Pay close attention to the weather and the plant; Hot, dry and windy days will dry the soil out much faster than "normal" weather.
- ◆ Remember, saturate the rootball completely, then allow it to dry out before soaking again.



WATERING ESTIMATOR

Perennial - 0.5-1 gallon per soak

Shrub - 1-3 gallons per soak

Deciduous Tree - 10 gallons per caliper (example: 2 inch caliper tree = 20 gallons per soak)

Evergreen Tree - 10 gallons per 3 feet height (example: 6 foot tree = 20 gallons per soak)

The watering estimator will tell you roughly how much water is needed per soak; however, it does not tell you how OFTEN to water your plant! Please read entire Watering Guideline!

PROPER WATERING IS CRITICAL FOR NEW PLANTS!

Soak on a regular basis only when soil 6-8 inches down and 6 inches outside the rootball is almost dry. Frequency depends on soil type, air temperature, rain, and lawn watering. The only way to water properly is to **CHECK THE SOIL**. Remember that clay soil dries out slower than sandy soil. Potted trees/shrubs may dry out faster than balled and burlapped (B&B) trees/shrubs, but check the soil to be sure. Misting trees is also beneficial. Try to imitate a slow rain. (Scan QR code below for a demonstration.) Evergreens especially need this during the winter months.

**DOESN'T
NEED WATER**



**TIME TO
WATER!**

**Plants take 3-5
years to fully
establish, then
they'll need less
water from you.**

WINTER WATERING GUIDELINES

Winter watering is necessary for plant survival. Our driest months are November-February, meaning plants will still require attention. Once you turn off your irrigation system, (usually in October), it is especially important that you keep some moisture in the ground. Water once a week to twice a month when it is above 40 degrees and there is little to no snow on the ground. This ensures the roots freeze wet. Below are some guidelines that will keep your plants happy and ready for next Spring!

DECIDUOUS TREES/SHRUBS

- ◆ Deciduous plants do not use much water once their leaves have fallen off for the winter. They still, however, run the risk of drying up.
- ◆ Using a garden hose, let a slow drip soak the root ball for 2-4 hours, 15-30 minutes for shrubs. Try to do this once a week to twice a month as weather allows.



EVERGREEN TREES/SHRUBS

- ◆ Evergreen plants will transpire (breathe out) moisture all year long through the stomata on the needle/leaf. It is particularly important to mist the needles 3 times per month to prevent browning on their outer needles due to sun/frost damage.
- ◆ Try to imitate a slow rainfall or drizzle. Enough water will run down the trunk and drip from the branches to moisten the ground. Scan QR code below for a demonstration. This will go a long way to keeping your evergreens happy!



ONE LAST THING: UNHOOK YOUR HOSE FROM THE HOUSE WHEN YOU ARE DONE (Many have learned this the hard way). You could potentially damage the pipes in your house, if left attached. If you want to use your hose immediately when you water next, walk/drain your hoses so they are not full of ice.



WINTER WATERING TUTORIAL VIDEO