

Plant Care Guide

For the first 1-2 weeks after planting, the plant is working to become established in a new environment and will require daily watering. After 2 weeks, water every 2-3 days. After 2 months, follow the guidelines listed below.

Water deeply and infrequently-Water plants thoroughly, then do not water again until the soil becomes dry. Deep watering ensures that the roots grow down into the soil to anchor the plant. Frequent watering in small amounts will cause the roots to remain shallow because that is where the water is located. It is best to set the hose at the base of the plant. The exact amount of time required depends on the size of the plant, the spacing of the plants around it, and the slope of the area. On the other hand, over-watering is just as detrimental to plant health as under-watering. The roots need both oxygen and water to survive. If over-watering occurs too often, the roots may rot.

Weather conditions-Watering is most critical during the summer and early winter. These time periods are generally dry and can cause increased stress to both new and existing landscapes. Check the soil around your plants frequently during dry spells. Feel the soil 2-3 inches below the surface. If it is damp, you do not need to water. Plants with more sun exposure will likely need more frequent watering than those primarily in the shade.

Timing-Water plants in the cooler parts of the day. This decreases the amount of water that is lost to evaporation. It is recommended to water in the morning when possible. If plants go into the overnight hours with moisture on their foliage, there is a higher chance of disease development.

Weed Control

Mulch or rock-Both mulch and rock work as barriers to weeds. Keep the mulch layer at least 3 inches thick and check the condition of the weed fabric under rock beds annually.

Weeding-The best way to keep weeds from taking over landscape beds is to do regular weeding. This extra effort keeps the weeds from getting established and going to seed. If weeds are allowed to release their seeds, the problem will only get worse.

Chemical methods-Try to manage weed growth with regular weeding first. In some cases, a pre-emergent herbicide like Preen may be necessary. Pre-emergent products will not kill existing weeds, but they will prevent new weeds from growing.