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Care Of New Landscape

Watering New Shrubs and Trees

Water is the single most important factor in assuring your new landscape will flourish. It is important to water new plantings regularly, but remember, type of soil and weather conditions should dictate the quantity and frequency of watering. Every landscape is different. Use the guide below, making adjustments as necessary:

Temperature less than 60 degrees F.

Water the first day after planting, then water every fourth day for the first month.

After the first month, water plant material once per week.

Temperature between 60 degrees F and 80 degrees F

Water the first day after planting, then water every other day for the first month.

After the first month, water plant material once per week.

Temperature above 80 degrees F

Water every day after planting for the first month. After the first month, water every fourth day.

Test the moisture of the soil 2-6 inches deep. If it is dry or slightly damp, the plant material should be watered. Sandy soils generally will require more water; clay soils generally less water. Also remember, wind is a major contributor to moisture loss.

Watering New Sod

Sod **MUST** be watered immediately after installation. At least 1" of water is recommended for the first watering. Water sod daily until it is firmly rooted. It is usually rooted within two weeks during normal growing conditions. After sod is rooted, begin water less frequently but deeper (at least 1" per time). This will help develop a strong root system that can withstand windy dry periods. Weather conditions will dictate the amount and frequency of watering. The best time to water is early morning; the next best is late evening. Watering during the middle of the day is not recommended because most of the water evaporates before soaking into the soil. Also, because plants/soil stay damp for an extended period of time, watering at night is not recommended as it will increase the odds of a fungal invasion. Sod near sidewalks or driveways, buildings, and small areas will dry out first. These areas will require more water. Avoid heavy foot traffic and mowing until sod has firmly rooted.