



Watering Your New Lawn to Garden Landscape

Recommendations for Efficient Watering

Day of Planting: Before planting drop your plant into a bucket of water. When the plant sinks in the bucket the soil is saturated and ready to plant. Also fill the planting hole with water and let water soak into the soil. Finish filling hole with soil and lightly tamp down soil. Water the soil around the plant with a watering wand or use the gentle shower setting on a hose nozzle.

First Two Weeks: During the first two weeks it is best to apply additional water through hand watering each individual plant with a watering wand or using the gentle shower setting on a hose nozzle. This will ensure sufficient water gets to each root ball. Set your irrigation controller to water every other day. Check root ball for soil moisture by feeling the soil for dampness. New plants rely on the water applied to the root ball to survive so the root ball should be kept damp. It is important that your new plants do not wilt during the first two weeks. The rootball and the soil adjacent to the rootball should not dry out completely.

First Three Months: If no rain is present, continue watering every other day during the first three months. Check soil moisture of root balls and adjacent soil. Hand water any plants that have a dry root ball. Do not hand water if root ball is damp. Soil adjacent root ball should also be moist. If soil is dry increase watering time on controller. If soil is damp reduce watering days. Also if you planted in the fall or winter months, you will be able to reduce the number of watering days sooner, during the first three months.

From the Fourth Month to One Year: If you have not already done so, it is time to start extending the number of days between watering. Move to watering every third day, then to every fourth day. You may see that some plants still need additional water. Woody plants typically need longer to establish themselves than non-woody plants (perennials). Hand water these plants. At this time make sure to water outside the root ball so the crown of the plant stays dry. If you are using individual emitters they should be moved to the drip line of the plants, away from the plants crown. You may also start to see that some plants are more drought tolerant than others. If needed, you can hand water those less drought tolerant plants as necessary.

Long Term: Water-wise plants need a limited amount of water to survive but like all plants will grow more with additional water. Depending upon the drought tolerance of the plants, you will need to water your landscape from twice a week to only once a month. Hand water or add emitters to plants that seem to need more water instead of watering all the plants more often.

