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Landscape Office

WATERING AND CARE FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE

Winesett Nursery provides a one-year guarantee on plantings supplied and installed by us, with exceptions noted in our warranty. However, our guarantee is contingent upon the owner providing proper watering and care. Be sure to read the following general instructions on watering and care. If you have any further questions concerning the care requirements for your new plantings, please contact your designer/sales person.

Newly planted plants have to adjust to a new environment and sometimes will shock. This is normal -- don't panic! Knowledge and patience must be applied at this time. Treat plants like living things and they will reward you with beauty and years of enjoyment.

Good watering practices reduce plant stress, weed problems and give your landscape a jump start!

Newly installed plants need extra care and watering attention after being planted.

As a general guideline new plantings, seed or sod will require regular soaking for at least the first couple of weeks of establishment. Thereafter it's important to monitor the weather, and soil around the plants, to determine how often to water. Many plants will wilt in the heat of the day, but may not require re-watering just yet. Checking the soil is the best way to accurately determine when to apply water or to hold off for a day or so.

Soil moisture meters are inexpensive, and a great tool to avoid overwatering or under watering your plantings. They can be inserted several inches in the soil in several locations close to new plantings to display the moisture readings. They are available at most home improvement stores or online shopping vendors. In Tidewater, we see much more plant death occurring the first year due to over watering than under watering. This is because of our clay soils and poor drainage. If plantings are continually irrigated without monitoring the roots can rot from sitting in water for long periods of time, causing decline and plant loss.

Because exposures (sun, wind, shade etc.) can vary it is important to monitor the watering and make adjustments to your irrigation schedule from area to area within your landscape.

How often the plantings will need moisture will depend on the exposure of the area and weather factors.

Weather Factors: Air temperatures, precipitation and wind affect soil moisture.

- Hot, dry weather: moisture should be checked daily. Frequent, even daily watering, especially of smaller plants, may be required to avoid water stress. Daily irrigation can be reduced after an initial 7-day soak period, but continue to check for signs of water stress until temperatures cool or weather changes.
- Hot, rainy weather: Long, steady rain soaks the soil will delay the need to water, but summer rain from a short thunderstorm may run off quickly and not adequately soak the soil. Even a good rain in the summer might not be adequate if we've had a long period of drought. Check the soil moisture before delaying irrigation.
- Cool, dry weather: Check for watering every 2-5 days after initial soaking.
- Cool, wet weather: check for water every 7-14 days. During very cool, wet weather you may not need to water at all since natural rainfall might be sufficient.

Although we think of watering during the late spring through the summer, fall watering is crucial to winter survival of newly planted plants. Therefore, continue monitoring watering until freezing temperatures occur regularly.

Plants require extra watering attention during drought periods.

During prolonged drought periods irrigation systems may not be able to keep trees and larger shrubs watered deeply enough. Hand watering is often required to supplement your normal irrigation schedule to avoid under watering stress.

Hand Watering Guide:

Proper watering assures water reaches the roots of plants by applying water thoroughly and directly to root zone of the plant, not simply spraying the foliage.

Use a hose-end water shower head when watering smaller plants directly to prevent the water pressure from washing away mulch and soil.

For large trees and shrubs turn on the hose to a lower pressure and let the water slowly soak into the soil around each plant.. The lower pressure allows the heavy clay soils in our area to absorb the water gradually.

New Lawn Areas:

Newly sodded areas must be kept consistently moist until proper rooting is evident (usually 2-3 weeks after completion - you can tug lightly on a piece and it does not peel up easily). Watering may be required daily or on a frequent schedule to maintain adequate soil moisture initially.

Reduce consistently watering as soon as proper rooting is evident to avoid over-watering your adjoining trees and shrubs. New lawn areas may have different exposures from area to area within the landscape- so monitoring the watering is important. Continually irrigating the sod and landscape, without monitoring, can encourage fungal disease and lead to sod and plant decline or loss.

Newly seeded areas must be kept moist on a daily basis until germination is complete. Continue to water daily 1 – 2 weeks after germination then reduce frequency, but water deeply (watering just shy of the point of puddling or runoff) to encourage deep rooting and seedling establishment.

Fertilizing:

We fertilize your trees, shrubs and perennials with a slow-release fertilizer when planting. Quick-release water soluble fertilizers such as Miracle Grow can be applied by the owner with a hose end applicator to heavy feeders such as roses, hydrangeas, butterfly bush, perennials and annuals during the growing season (early spring-late summer) for better results and more lush growth.

**Only apply a water soluble fertilizer when the plants are well-hydrated. (For example: after a good rain or following irrigation). Plants that are wilted or dehydrated should not be fertilized with a quick-release liquid feed as the fertilizer salts could damage a stressed plant.*

A application of a slow-release fertilizer, such as Osmocote Classic 14-14-14 or Holly Tone 4-6-4, is recommended for most plantings to ensure healthy grow and plant vigor. Slow-release fertilizers may be applied at most times of the year, but it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions to insure the best results.

Solid-form spike fertilizers for larger trees and shrubs such as Miracle Grow or Jobes can be applied by the owner in early spring and fall will result in better vigor and faster growth.

Lawn fertilizers with high nitrogen should not be used to fertilize your trees, shrubs annuals and perennials.