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RECOMMENDED WATERING PRACTICES FOR SUMMER AND FALL

Water, Water, Water

A new plant's most important need is water. Be sure that your plant(s) gets the water it needs to get its roots out into its new surroundings. Although this is true for all plants, it is especially true for trees and shrubs. Water stress from lack of rain coupled with record high temperatures can be a very serious situation for new plantings as well as plants established for 10 years or more. Serious, permanent damage can occur to evergreens from drought conditions. During the 'dog-days' of summer and drier fall weather, watering is critical for the survival of your plants. Proper watering will moisten the entire root system.

Plants are made up of 90% water and will tell you when they need a drink. Watch for dryness symptoms: dull foliage as the first indication of drought, second dry symptom is wilting foliage and flowers.

Here are a few suggestions for providing adequate water for your plants...

Container plants

Daily, as necessary, until water flows out the bottom of the container. Use water soluble fertilizers at least every 7 days until the mid October.

Annuals and Perennials planted in the ground

One inch of water every 5 days – check by poking your finger 3-5" into the soil near the plant roots to determine if soil is moist. Use water soluble fertilizers every 14 days on annuals until frost unless generous amounts of Osmocote were used at planting time.

Shrubs and Trees

Newly planted – water twice a week until late September. Set the garden hose next to the main part of the plant and let water trickle for 30 minutes. Using a bamboo stake or broom handle gently pushed into the ground 15-18" in the planting hole. Pull the stake out and, if muddy, then you have succeeded in getting water down into the root zone. If dry, adjust your watering habits.

Spring planted – once every 5 days from May until December. Check moisture level as above.

Watch for over-watering containers w/o drainage holes and heavy clay soils that hold water, rot the roots, and kill your plants.