



**YOUR NEW LANDSCAPE**  
WATERING GUIDE LINES

## EVERGREENS, TREES, SHRUBS & PERENNIALS

### BASIC WATERING RULE:

Always check the soil moisture around the base of the plant (under the mulch/stone) prior to watering. If the top 1" of the soil feels wet, there is no need to water.

### INITIAL WATERING FROM 0 TO 3 WEEKS:

Plants should be watered one time each day for the first week unless they are getting sprinkled by lawn watering or by substantial rain. For the second week water every other day. The third week water three times. When watering by hand, run the hose at regular pressure without a nozzle of any sort and count according to the following chart:

#### HOT MONTHS (above 80 degrees)

TREES & EVERGREEN TREES	3-4 minutes
SHRUBS & SMALL EVERGREENS	30-40 seconds
PERENNIALS	15-20 seconds
GROUNDCOVERS	15 seconds

#### COOL MONTHS (below 80 degrees)

TREES & EVERGREEN TREES	1-2 minutes
SHRUBS & SMALL EVERGREENS	20-30 seconds
PERENNIALS	10-15 seconds
GROUNDCOVERS	10 seconds

### TIPS TO REMEMBER WHEN WATERING:

- Plants should be watered just inside & outside the drip line, or outer edge of the plant.
- Trees in lawn areas should NOT be watered if new sod is around them, they will get their water from the lawn watering.
- Plants near house foundations, under eaves, and/or in southern, southwestern, or western exposures may have to be watered more frequently. They may get little water from precipitation, and reflected heat from walls leads to increased water and heat stress.
- Keep in mind that mounds, berms and slopes with plants usually have much more soil surface exposed and cause water to run off which in turn makes plants more prone to drying out quicker. Check and water these areas more frequently.
- Be careful not to over water, it can be just as harmful as under watering.
- Keep foliage dry when watering and morning watering is the best. These two things will help reduce disease & evaporation.
- Mulching newly established plants helps prevent moisture loss.

## NEW SOD

The purpose of watering in the initial stages is to keep moisture present long enough to begin root growth. Regardless of the type of sprinkler system used, be sure to provide adequate, even soaking, with periods of drainage between applications. Soaking the sod keeps it from shrinking at the seams and it will prevent burning and discoloration. Be sure to take rainfall into account as it may require less watering. This is not always the case so pay close attention to the amount of rain we get. Please try to obey the water restrictions set by your village, permits are sometimes available. Full establishment of a sod lawn is important so please follow these guidelines in order to ensure proper establishment.

### **WATERING FOR NEWLY INSTALLED SOD:**

Immediately after sod is laid, water each section as follows:

- Three times/day for the first 4 days for 20-30 min/section
- Two times/day for the next 4 days for 20-30 min/section
- One time/day for the next 4 day for 20-30 min/section
- Do not allow sod & under soil to dry out it must stay wet.

### **WATERING FOR EXISTING LAWN:**

Normal watering means, providing 1 inch of water per week, whether by natural rainfall or manual watering.

- Additional watering may be needed during hot summer months
- Water lawn during early morning hours, when it would naturally be wet with dew.
- Morning watering usually takes advantage of less wind, cooler temperatures & good water pressure. Be sure to check your village for possible watering restrictions.
- Unlike the afternoon, water has time to soak down to the roots without evaporating.
- Avoid wet conditions at night, as wet leaves are more susceptible to disease.

## ADDITIONAL PLANT CARE

### PLANTS TO KEEP MOIST:

BURNING BUSH  
BARBERRY  
HYDRANGEA  
SWEETSPIRE  
DOGWOOD

SPIREA VARIETIES  
VIBURNUM  
SUMMERSWEET  
RIVER BIRCH  
NINEBARK

*\*Additional watering may be required of the above plants during hot weather.*

### TRANSPLANT SHOCK:

You may see signs of transplant shock, which is a condition that some plants get due to loss of root system or damage to their root system. Adequate care will reduce transplant shock and symptoms should disappear as the plant adjusts to its new surroundings.

### CONTINUED WATERING:

After plants have become established 1" of water per week is recommended. Most plants require no additional watering except in drought conditions (*less than 1" of water per week*). In this case trees would require water 3 times per week, shrubs & evergreens should be watered 1-2 times per week, and perennials/groundcovers should be watered 3 times per week. See chart on previous page for instructions on how long to water.

### FERTILIZING:

We recommend fertilizing all plants once every 3 weeks during the months of April, May, June and July with Miracle-Gro (*a water soluble fertilizer*) or a 10-10-10 fertilizer. Some plants such as rhododendron and hydrangea will benefit from a more acidic soil; Miracid can be used on these. For bulbs use a fertilizer that is high in potassium. Fertilizer should not be applied after mid-summer because plants are not actively growing. Applying fertilizer in the fall encourages new growth just before winter and does not give the new growth time to harden before the frost, which often will result in frost damage to the new growth.