



Your new plants were installed with correct horticultural methods including amendments and a good deep watering and now it is up to you to get familiar with the soil moisture and their needs to keep them healthy and thriving.

We recommend watering all plants just before sunrise. This timing thoroughly hydrates your plants before they need it most - in the intensity of the sun – without risking fungal problems that could result from them being wet all night. Many of our clients who choose not to install an irrigation system enjoy the convenience of a soaker hose on a timer. Let us know if you'd like assistance setting this up.

Deep, less frequent watering is recommended. When watering your new plants it is best to give the soil a slow long watering that really soaks the ground. This practice will encourage the roots to go deep and eventually find their own water to be as self-sufficient as possible. If you do not have irrigation and are planning to hand water, it is recommended that you put the hose on the ground at a low pressure and give it time. This is much more effective than squirting the top of the soil until it looks wet. We recommend filling the basins around each plant 2-3 times in the heat of the summer. Methodically start at one end of your newly planted landscape, fill the basin of each plant until each new plant has been watered, then repeat 2-3 times.

Newly planted trees should be watered with 10 gallons of water for each inch of tree trunk diameter.

HOW TO TELL WHEN TO WATER

After plants have been in and watered deeply for a couple of weeks, an interactive watering process is most beneficial. Meaning that a hand check is necessary to see how moist the soil is about 6 inches deep. Gently use a trowel to dig down and then feel the moistness of the soil at root level. It should feel like a wrung out sponge, neither too dry nor sopping wet, will be the best recipe to get well established. And note the amount of water needed will change throughout the season. In the heat of the summer with no rain, every 2-3 days may be necessary, whereas once a week may be sufficient during the cool spring and fall months.

Expect 3 years before your new plants are established. Once they are established their roots have taken hold and you'll notice significant growth. But always err on the side of checking soil and ensuring they have enough water.

WINTER WATERING

Also note that during dry winters you should water your new plants monthly; the major holidays are a good guide so you won't forget when it was last done. Again, slow and deep is the practice to use. Water mid-morning on a warmer day if possible so that the soil will have had a chance to thaw a bit and the water will be able to percolate down to the root zone. Mid-late morning water also allows the roots time to use the water before freezing solid again at night.