

WATERING SCHEDULE FOR NEWLY PLANTED LANDSCAPES

Below you will find our recommendations for watering your newly-planted trees and shrubs. **Read and abide to validate your plant warranty.** You should not rely on a lawn sprinkler system to provide the right amount of water to help the successful establishment of newly planted trees and shrubs. Rainfall is a substitute for watering only if precipitation is 1/2-1 inch (24hour period) and above (measure with a rain

gauge). Our recommendations are contingent upon soil type, site drainage, and existing site conditions. Water rates may also need to be adjusted for shady sites (less water) exposed sites or slopes (more water) and mature sites with competing root systems (more water). Perennials require different water amounts; Applying one inch of water a week during the summer months is recommended.

IMPORTANT!! Continue to regularly water new plantings until late Fall. Do a thorough watering around Thanksgiving, and even again at Christmas if it's dry and windy. Available moisture in unfrozen soil is critical for all plants to over-winter more successfully!

1ST MONTH NEW PLANTING WATER SCHEDULE

(The first month's water schedule helps to wean plants from the nursery environment.)

It is most important to mist leaves and stems above ground to maintain overall hydration everyday through the first 2 weeks. This is best done early in the morning or dusk. Rain and heavy dew counts!

Continue every 2-3 days if there is no rain and low humidity. Conifers dry out quickly upon transplant. Keep leaders hydrated. If a leader is lost, the tree will establish a new leader.

This misting is especially important if using drip irrigation which does not reach top growth.

1st Week: Water a little every day to keep the soil evenly moist.

2nd Week: Water every other day as described to maintain even moisture (not soggy soil).

WINTER WATERING is sometimes needed when precipitation and humidity rates are low. Conifers are particularly sensitive the first 2 winters. On a mild 34+ degree day water plants at least once. Lightly mist needles. Do not overwater. If April is warm and dry, water and wet down leaders of conifers regularly to avoid early desiccation. If humid and rainy, monitor your plants.

3rd Week: Water every third day

4th Week: Water deeply as described below once or twice a week.

Although the below recommendations are a good guideline to use, it shouldn't take the place of physically checking the soil. Soil should be moist 8-10" below mulch.

Soil should feel like a squeezed out moist sponge. Take a handful of soil and squeeze. If water droplets appear or it oozes through your fingers, it is too wet. If soil won't form a solid clump, it is too dry. It should hold, but break up easily.

Plants need just as much oxygen in the soil as moisture. They are terrestrial, not aquatic. Do not drown!



NEW PLANTING WATER SCHEDULE

(The first month's water schedule helps to wean plants from the nursery environment.)

Clay soil water schedule For trees, put water on a slow trickle. Leave the hose under the tree for 5–7 minutes or 5–7 gallons. After the first month, switch to once-a-week watering. For shrubs apply water at a rate of 1 gallon per foot of height, or roughly 1–2 minutes per shrub 2 times a week.

It is easy to drown plants in clay. More plants die in this situation than any other soil type. Pay close attention. Sometimes root aeration tubes are needed in heavy clay. These are installed after planting as necessary.

Loam soil water schedule For trees, put water on a medium trickle. Leave the hose under the tree for 10–15 minutes or 10–15 gallons. After

the first month, switch to twice-a-week watering. For shrubs apply water at a rate of 1 gallon per foot of height or roughly 1–2 minutes per shrub 2 to 3 times a week depending on heat and wind exposure.

Sandy soil water schedule Put water on a medium trickle. Leave the hose under the tree for 15–20 minutes or 15–20 gallons. After the first month, water 2–3 times a week or more if dry and windy. For shrubs, apply water at a rate of 2 gallon per foot or just water for 2–3 minutes 3–4 times a week.

You may have to increase the frequency during drought or dry conditions. Be aware that symptoms of over-watering (wilted leaves, especially in the early morning) are similar to drought stress.

MONITOR & LEARN YOUR SOIL CHARACTERISTICS.

It takes 3–5 years for a plant to fully establish & perform up to our expectations.

THEY SLEEP. THEY CREEP. THEY LEAP!

BE PATIENT. THE 2ND YEAR CAN LOOK ROUGH WHILE
PLANTS CONCENTRATE ON ROOT GROWTH.

THIRD YEAR TOP GROWTH LOOKS TERRIFIC AND VIBRANT!



BEST WAYS TO GROW NEWLY PLANTED GRASS

YOUNG LAWNS NEED SPECIAL CARE. LEARN HOW TO WATER, FEED AND MOW – AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT WEEDS AND BUGS.

Proper planting of grass seed entails some effort.

Dig or till the ground to a 3-inch depth. Rake to remove clods and smooth out the surface. Remember that you're establishing a finished grade, so include any contours needed for drainage. Cast seed evenly over soil. Lightly rake so seed is mostly covered with

an inch of soil. Cover with chopped straw to maintain moisture and deter birds from eating seed.

So now that you're done planting grass seed, you're wondering: "What do I do next?" Not to worry.

Follow these simple steps.

WATERING NEW GRASS

After you've planted your grass seed, the top inch of soil should be kept consistently moist but not soggy. This means misting it with water once or twice a day, usually in the morning and again at midday, if needed. If the weather is hot and dry, you will need to mist with water more frequently. If your grass seed dries out after it has started to sprout, it will die. Once the grass seed starts to germinate, continue to keep the top two inches of soil moist until the new grass reaches mowing height (normally between 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 inches). After you've mowed at least once, begin to cut back on watering to about twice per week and soak the soil more deeply (about 6 to 8 inches) each time to encourage the grass roots to grow down deep in the soil.

MOWING NEW GRASS

Whether you've seeded bare spots or a whole lawn, hold off on mowing the area until the new grass has reached mowing height. Make sure your mower blade is nice and sharp, and cut your grass only when it's dry. Don't cut it too short and do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass height in a single mowing. If you've overseeded your existing lawn, you can mow as needed, but try to cut back on the frequency to limit traffic on the new seedlings. Here are basic steps to proper mowing:

1. Set Your Mower High. 2"-3" handles the times of drought better than shorter grass blades.

2. Mow Your Lawn When It's Dry

3. Vary Your Mowing Pattern

4. Don't Mow on a Schedule

5. Wait Before Mowing a New Lawn .Never mow a new lawn less than 2".

6. Leave Grass Clippings Where They Lie. This helps build soil nutrients.

7. Keep Your Mower Blade Sharp. This is the most important step!

FEEDING NEW GRASS

Feeding is important for all lawns, but it's especially important for new grass. If you didn't feed your new grass when it was planted, apply a lawn fertilizer designed for new grass, like Scotts® Turf Builder® Starter® Food for New Lawns, 2 to 4 weeks after seeding. It will provide the right nutrients in the proper proportions that new grass plants need to grow in thick and develop strong roots. If you applied a starter lawn fertilizer when you planted your new grass, feed again 6 to 8 weeks later with a standard lawn food, like Scotts® Turf Builder® Lawn Food, which will help keep your new grass growing thick and green. Continue with regular feedings every 6 to 8 weeks to provide the nutrients your lawn needs to help crowd out weeds and withstand the stresses of heat, drought, and normal wear-and-tear.



CARING FOR NEW SOD

Just as with grass seed, you need to keep the top 1 to 2 inches of newly laid sod consistently moist but not soggy. Your new sod should be watered daily, or twice a day during hot, dry weather; if the edges of the sod start to pull apart, you're not watering enough. After 2 weeks, start watering every other day for a longer period of time to encourage deeper root growth. After 2 to 3 weeks, if you have been watering properly, the sod should have a well-established root system. When you gently tug on the grass, it shouldn't pull up from the soil. Once the sod has rooted into the soil, it can be mowed as needed once it reaches mowing height. This is also a good time to feed your new lawn with a lawn fertilizer designed for new grass, such as Scotts® Turf Builder® Starter® Food for New Lawns.

HANDLING WEEDS IN YOUR NEW GRASS

It happens. That's because dormant weed seeds are always present in the soil, and they're waiting to sprout when they get a chance. Weeds pop up now and then among newly planted grass, but that doesn't mean you should treat them right away. A good rule of thumb is to wait

until you've mowed your new grass at least 4 times before you treat the weeds with weed-control products. The exception is if you are using a weed-control product specifically designed to be used when seeding, such as Scotts® Turf Builder® Triple Action Built for Seeding (for use on Northern lawns only). As always, remember to read and follow the product label directions for the weed-control product you are using. Hand weeding individual plants is encouraged!

HANDLING BUGS IN YOUR NEW GRASS

Bugs in a new lawn are very common, and you'll want to protect your new grass with an insect control product. Most products labeled for insect control can be applied any time on newly planted grass. Spectracide Triazicide, EcoSmart Insect Killer or any product containing Merit are recommended. Crosscheck is used by professionals. Remember to always read and follow the label directions before applying an insect control product.

