

T W A T E R I N G T I P S . . .

- 1. Water stress can result from either too much or too little water and is the #1 cause of poor plant growth and even death.** Keep in mind that symptoms of either type of water stress can look very similar.
- The type of newly planted trees, shrubs, or perennials plus the time of year and temperature are all factors in determining how much water each plant will need. Learn the type of soil in your yard, and how it drains or holds water.
- Water the soil at the base of the plant where the roots are. Avoid using overhead sprinklers, except when watering lawns. Soaker hoses or spot irrigation is the most effective, efficient, and economical.
- Avoid shallow-rooted, wilt-prone plants and mildewed foliage with these **TWO RULES** when watering:
 - Water slowly and deeply rather than frequently and shallowly, to encourage deep root growth. Allow soil to dry slightly between watering, this will encourage roots to reach for water.
 - Water the ground, not the air or leaves. Very dry soil is slow to take up water so you may need to water one plant, go to the next and come back to the previous to be sure the water is able to soak into the ground.

Red Fern Pro Tip: Most trees and shrubs should receive 1" to 1.5" (5-10 gallons) of water per week during the growing season. If the plants do not receive rain, manual watering should be provided. A typical garden hose on low to medium pressure, on a shower setting, will take about 5 minutes to produce 10 gallons of water.

WATERING VOLUME & FREQUENCY (PRIORITY: VOLUME OVER FREQUENCY)

TREES & SHRUBS:

AMOUNT OF EACH WATERING: 2-3 minutes with the hose on low to medium shower at the base OR 1-1.5 hours with a soaker hose

FIRST MONTH: Check soil moisture daily by hand or moisture meter (water 2-3 times per week)

FIRST & SECOND SEASON: 1 time per week for the remainder of the growing season

PERENNIALS:

AMOUNT OF EACH WATERING: 30 seconds to 1 minute with the hose on a low shower at the base OR 30-45 minutes with a soaker hose

FIRST TWO WEEKS: Check soil moisture daily (water 3-4 times per week)

FIRST & SECOND SEASON: 1 time per week for the remainder of the growing season



REMEMBER TO GIVE ALL PLANTS A DEEP WATERING JUST PRIOR TO THE GROUND FREEZING (around Thanksgiving), REGARDLESS OF THEIR AGE!

Red Fern Pro Tip: It is very important for your new plantings to be watered regularly. However, the type of soil and the weather conditions should determine how frequently and how much you water. Never water automatically or without first checking the soil to determine if watering is needed. To do this, use a trowel to test the moisture of your soil about 4-6 inches deep. If you find it is dry or only slightly damp, the plant should be watered. Sandy soils generally will need to be watered more frequently than clay soils.