



A Natural Choice™

Taking Care of Your New Plants

NEW SOD LAWNS

- **Depending on weather conditions, new sod should be watered at least two times per day to keep the soil moist to a depth of 1 to 2 inches until root growth begins in approximately 10 to 14 days.**

Immediately following installation, apply one inch of water to the new sod. To determine that the soil is moist 1"-2" deep, dig a small hole between the pieces of sod. Limit activity on new sod as much as possible during this time. Reduce watering to every two to three days once sod has begun new root growth. To test for root growth, gently pull up on one corner of a piece of sod. If it lifts easily, root growth is still limited. If it provides resistance, root growth has begun. Remember that sod installed near buildings or pavement will dry out more quickly and may need additional water.

Mow new sod when it is completely rooted (usually at least 10 days following installation) using the highest deck/bench setting on your mower to remove only 1/3 the length of the grass blade.

NEW SEED LAWNS

- **A newly seeded lawn should be watered as many as four times per day in order to keep the seedbed moist, but not saturated, to a depth of 1 to 2 inches until germination occurs.**

Continue to apply light applications of water (1/8 to 1/4 inches) one to four times per day until seedlings reach 2" in height. At this time, gradually reduce the frequency of the watering and water more deeply to continue to maintain good soil moisture at a depth of 1 to 2 inches. Dig a small hole in the seedbed to determine that soil is moist 1" – 2" deep.

Important: In most cases a mixture of varieties of grass seed will be installed and the length of time required for germination will vary for each variety.

If straw has been applied to prevent rapid drying of soil and encourage seed germination, it may be removed about three weeks after germination has occurred.

Begin mowing newly seeded lawns after the grass has grown to a height of 3" to 4". Your first mowing should remove just enough of the grass blade (1/2" to 3/4") to give your lawn an even appearance. In subsequent mowing, remove only 1/3 of the total length of the grass blade.

HOW MUCH WATER EQUALS 1"?

1. Use a rain gauge or a straight sided can (like a tuna can) to measure how long a sprinkler or your irrigation system must run to deliver 1" of water.
2. Use a bucket or watering can with a known volume and note how long it takes for a hose to deliver 1 gallon of water. Example: If it takes 30 seconds to deliver one gallon of water, you need to allow the hose to run five minutes to deliver 10 gallons of water.
3. 624 gallons of water (83.3 cubic feet) = 1" of water per 1000 square feet.



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NEW PERENNIALS AND SHRUBS

- **Perennials and shrubs need 1” of water per week either from rainfall or irrigation**

Container grown plants are grown in soilless mixtures and dry out more rapidly than the surrounding native soil. Typically these root balls only have a 1-2 day supply of water. New plantings should be watered thoroughly at the time of installation. If the temperatures are high and the soil is dry, more than 1” of water per week may be required until new plants have become established. To check the moisture content of the soil, use a trowel to dig a hole 6” to 8” deep. If the soil does not hold together, it’s time to water!

*Caution: Over-watering can be as detrimental to plant growth as under-watering. The typical symptom that indicates over-watering is wilted plants do not perk up after watering.

NEW TREES

- **New trees need 1” or more of water per week in one or two applications either from rainfall or irrigation.**

All newly installed trees should be thoroughly watered at the time of planting. Supplemental watering will be required for the remainder of the growing season and possibly the following season depending on planting location and weather conditions. If temperatures are high or soil is very dry, apply more than 1” of water per week.

Another easy calculation for determining how much water to provide for your new tree is as follows:

Apply 5 gallons of water per tree **PLUS** 5 gallons per inch of trunk diameter measured at 5’ height on the main trunk. Example: A 1 ½” diameter tree will require 12.5 gallons of water per week.

$$5 \text{ gallons} + (5 \text{ gallons} \times 1.5'') = 12.5$$

HOW MUCH WATER EQUALS 1”?

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2. Use a bucket or watering can with a known volume and note how long it takes for a hose to deliver 1 gallon of water. Example: If it takes 30 seconds to deliver one gallon of water, you need to allow the hose to run five minutes to deliver 10 gallons of water. **If you are using a bucket or hose to deliver the appropriate amount of water, it is preferable to allow the hose to run at a trickle or release the water from the bucket very slowly so that the soil absorbs the water and does not just run off.*
3. 624 gallons of water (83.3 cubic feet) = 1” of water per 1000 square feet.