



## PLANT WATERING TIPS

- **Establishment Period.** Every 3rd day – is a good rule of thumb for watering newly planted trees & shrubs. Use this frequency for the first two (2) weeks while the tree’s root system sends out new “feeder roots” to establish itself in its new environment. Check the soil immediately below the mulch layer – if it is semi-moist on the 3rd day, you can usually broaden the frequency to every 4-5 days for the first two (2) weeks.
- **Post-Establishment Waterings.** After the first two (2) weeks, change the frequency to 1x per week for the next four (4) weeks. It is important to train the new tree to become efficient in how it utilizes stored water and food as it matures in its new home.
- **Watering Schedule.** Best time to water is early morning. This gives your new tree(s) their needed water to “drink” during the warmest part of the day. If morning waterings are not possible – the next best time to water is in the evening. If the only time it can be done is mid-day too that is better than letting the plants dry out to wait for a more ideal time. The important thing is that the plants receive the necessary water.
- **Best Tools.** Use a hose with no attachment (or set your hand-sprayer attachment to “Soaker”) to water your new tree(s). Remember to concentrate the water around the entire root ball of the plant. If there is a hill set the hose a few several inches from the base of the trunk towards the uphill side. When applying the water—be sure to soak the area—leave the hose running on a “slow drip” within the drip line area for the appropriate amount of time (see chart below). One way to test the drip rate of your hose is to put a bucket under the drip for a period of time and see how long it takes to fill a given amount of liquid. An appropriate drip speed should fill a five gallon bucket in about 15 minutes.
- **Water Quantity.** Use the chart below as a guide to watering time/amount for various categories of plants. *Actual amount of water required depends on many factors including sun, wind, soil profile etc. Always watch how your plant is responding and adjust watering up or down as required.*

<u>Plant Category</u>	<u>Gallons per week</u>	<u>TOTAL weekly watering time @ 15 gal/min</u>	<u>watering time for 2x/wk</u>
Perennials	1 to 3 gallons	3 to 9 minutes	1.5 to 4.5 minutes
Shrubs up to 2'	5 to 10 gallons	15 to 30 minutes	7.5 to 15 minutes
Shrubs 3-5'	10 to 15 gallons	30 to 45 minutes	15 to 22.5 minutes
Shrubs greater than 5'	15 to 20 gallons	45 minutes to 1 hr	22.5 to 30 minutes
Trees (up to 1" caliper)	15 to 20 gallons	45 minutes to 1 hr	22.5 to 30 minutes
Trees 2" to 3" caliper	25 to 30 gallons	about 1.5 hr.	about 45 minutes

### MAINTENANCE WATERING:

Newly planted trees and shrubs will need supplemental watering during hot summer days or through periods of drought. Once fully established (in 1 –3 years) trees and shrubs do not need maintenance watering but will appreciate and look happier with a little drink during very hot days, especially if rainfall is absent for over a week.