

WATERING TIPS

In order to have a healthy and attractive landscape, you must reserve enough time and effort to make sure that careful soil preparation has been done, selection of quality grass and nursery stock has been made, and proper installation has been accomplished. TDH Landscaping has taken care of this much for you, now it is up to you to continue with proper watering practices. Paying close attention to your landscape's watering needs will make a world of difference in the outcome. The following are some tips for your convenience:

I) **NEWLY SEEDED LAWN**

A new seedbed must be kept moist from time of first watering until seed germination. This can be accomplished by frequent light watering. This procedure should be followed as often as necessary to prevent the seedbed from drying out. If drying occurs, seedlings could be lost. Most seeds take 7-21 days to germinate. The frequency of watering will be governed by cloud cover, temperatures, soil, wind, and amount of rainfall.

II) **YOUNG SEEDLINGS, SOD, AND ESTABLISHED LAWNS**

When seedlings have reached about a three-inch height, it is important to establish a deep root system. To accomplish this, water once a week for a total of one hour in ten-minute intervals. This will amount to approximately one inch of rainfall. This procedure may be continued for an entire season to ensure the establishment of a strong deep root system. Keep in mind, frequent light applications at this point will encourage shallow rooting making the lawn susceptible to drought and disease.

III) **TREES, SHRUBS, AND GROUND COVER**

Newly installed trees, shrubs, and ground cover as well as transplants need approximately 1 inch of rainfall per week. Water with a soaker hose, ooze, trickle, or emitter type watering system that meters water at a slow steady rate. Place this system at the base of your plant and allow it to run for 5-10 minutes, turn off and allow the water to soak into the soil for another 10 minutes, and continue this interval for 1 hour. This should be done at least 3 times per week. This type of system takes roughly 50% as much water as broadcast or fan type sprinklers. Hand watering each plant individually with a hose and water wand will give you the best results. A soil moisture tester may save a lot of frustration and time. Often more harm is done to lawns and all other plant material by improper watering practices than by not watering at all. So, test, don't guess. There is no set-watering plan, as soil differs greatly from area to area.

IV) **PERENNIALS, ANNUALS, AND BULBS**

To keep your garden blooming and looking its best, all flowers should be watered throughout the season unless there is adequate rainfall. Water during the early morning hours or later afternoon. Do not allow foliage to go into the evening wet, as this will invite disease and mildew.

All of your watering needs will be governed by temperature, amounts of sunlight, shade, wind, rainfall, and soil types. We hope the above will be helpful in the maintenance and care of your landscape.

TDH does offer watering services if doing the watering yourself is not possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank You.

