

YEARLY WATERING GUIDE

These are general guidelines that can be adapted/adjusted to your garden.

Many factors come into play with regard to watering: the age of the plant, size of the root system, type of plant, soil types, do you have more clay (usually in the lower parts of a valley), sand or hard rocky soil? The temperature, the wind, the amount of afternoon sun, the way you water – drip vs. hand, flood or sprinkler, ground covering and the time of year.

Older trees in your yard or your neighbor’s yard such as elms, cottonwoods, poplars, and silver maples love to rob water from your other plants. As a result, you will need to water your new plants longer to ensure they get their share of moisture. Other plants will also take up water from around your plants but not to the same extent.

Sandy soils – water rarely puddles but quickly penetrates and migrates downward swiftly. The root system may be more difficult to keep your new plant happy unless you water slowly on the root ball for the first month.

Hard soils – these might be clay or rocky heavy soil that neither water, picks nor shovels penetrate easily. These conditions require digging a wider hole than you would like. Water moves slowly through these soils even when you add your soil amendments.

First Week or Two Only

Plant container size	Recommended Drip Emitters 30 minutes everyday	Hand Watering
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• 1gal	(1) 1g emitter on the root ball	Usually a ½ gallon or more daily
• 2gal	(1) 1g on plant + (1) 1g 18” away	Try one gallon or more daily
• 5gal	(1) 2g on plant + (1) 2g 18” away	Two gallons or more daily
• 7/10/15gal	(2) 2g on plant + (2) 2g 18” away	Four gallons or more daily
• Larger	(4) 2g on plant + (3) 2g 18” away	Five – ten gallons or more daily

New plants planted in the summer (70° or warmer):

Week 1 & 2 – water every day to keep the root system wet and moisten the surrounding native soil.

New plants planted when the temperatures are between 60° and 70°

Week 1 & 2 – water every other day.

Newly planted plants when the temperatures are between 45° and 60°

Week 1 & 2 – water every other day.

Newly planted plants when the temperatures are below 45°

Week 1 & 2 – water twice a week

Week 3 through the first year

Drip irrigation: One hour three times per week

Plant container size	Recommended <u>amount of water</u> per watering day: whether by hand or drip irrigation
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1gal plants	usually need a gallon or more
2gal	usually need 2 gallons or more
5gal	usually need 5 gallons or more
7/10/15gal	usually need 10 gallons or more
Larger	usually need 30+ gallons or more

New plants planted in the summer (70° or warmer):

Week 3 and through the first year when temperatures are in this range – water 3 times a week

New plants planted when the temperatures are between 60° and 70°

Week 3 and through the first year when temperatures are in this range – water every other day or 2 or 3 times a week. If the winds are 20mph or over, definitely water 3 days.

Newly planted plants when the temperatures are between 45° and 60°

Week 3 and through the first year when temperatures are in this range – water twice a week.

Newly planted plants when the temperatures are below 45°

Week 3 and through the first year when temperatures are in this range – water once a week to once a month depending on if your plant has leaves on it. More leaves, water every week.

ESTABLISHED PLANTS

Each year your plants might grow anywhere from 10% to 100% of last year's size. The bigger your plants and trees become the longer you should water them **AND** you should be adding some extra emitters to areas where you are watering. Plant and tree roots go out in a fairly even ring around themselves and where the roots find water and fertilizer they grow far more abundantly. Watering on the west side of your trees helps deeper roots to withstand the winds better and allows the west side of the tree to look better. Roots will travel up to three times the height of the plant.

Yards that are 20 years old should be running their drip system for 2 hours 3 times a week during the summer.

Yards that are 40 years and older should be running their drip system for 3 hours 3 times a week.

ESTABLISHED LAWNS - usually 3 times a week.

As the temperatures go up, so does the amount of time that you should give your lawn with its weekly watering.

At temperatures between **50° and 70° lawns usually need** between ½ to ¾ of an inch of water a week. That works out to be around 12 minutes with heads that emit a flat spray and don't move side to side. If you have rotating heads, set your timer for 2 to 3 times the length of time as your flat sprays.

As temperatures rise, you need more time **so between 70° and 80° run your zones** for 16 minutes with flat sprays or 2 to 3 times the length of time as your flat sprays for rotating heads.

Temps 80° to 90° you may have to move your times up to 24 minutes(flat) and 65 minutes(rotating)

Temps at 90° to 100° you may have to move your times up to 30 minutes(flat) and 80 minutes(rotating).

Temperature adjustment for lawns—Inches of water per week

70°	= .50-.75 inches
80°	= .75-1.00 inches
90°	= 1.00-1.25 inches
100° +	= 1.25-1.50 inches

The amount of water applied can be measured by using a few straight-sided cups or cans placed at random spots in your lawn and added for a weekly total.

Please water your lawn between midnight and 10am. You usually have the best water pressure and least wind and evaporation between midnight and 5:30am.

If you have hard soil or a slope, try watering in short bursts of 5 to 10 minutes at a time with standard flat spray sprinklers or 30 minutes with rotating heads. This gives the soil more time to absorb the water and reduces run off.

Aerating and topdressing with compost are terrific practices to help improve any soil and reduce water use. Try doing it every two or three years for the first 10 years in the house and you will have the best lawn, least weeds, and everyone wanting to know your secret to success.