



WATERING TIPS FOR HEALTHY PLANTS

The most critical time for your new plants' survival is the first year after planting. Unfortunately, there are no definite or one-size-fits-all answers. However, if you monitor your plants' moisture levels carefully, you will be rewarded with lush, happy, healthy plants.

MONITOR PLANTS REGULARLY

- Check new plants for moisture 2 to 3 times per week; they haven't yet established roots in the surrounding soil.
- Inspect established plants every 1 to 2 weeks.
- Check moisture in the root ball, not just the soil.

WHEN NOT TO WATER

- Plants are just getting started in early spring and slow down in late fall; they need less water during those seasons.
- At these times, rainfall is usually all plants need.

WHEN PLANTS NEED MORE WATER

- Wind, heat, and sun decrease moisture in soil & plants.
- Don't rely only on a sprinkler system to give enough water!
- Plants may need a supplemental hand watering in these conditions to keep the root ball moist

BACK OFF AFTER 1-2 MONTHS

- As plants get established, they need less water.
- Don't overwater! Give them ½ as much as the lawn.
- Conserve soil moisture by spreading mulch in all planting beds and around shrubs.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!

The best moisture meter is your fingers! Scrape back any mulch and feel the soil.

- If it's hard and dry, water it.
- If it's soupy and soggy, stop watering.
- If it's moist, keep doing what you've been doing.

