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Watering Guidelines

If delivered, your plants would like to be planted and have a drink as soon as possible. If installed, they have been watered at least once, but tomorrow you will need to water them again.

- The general rule is that plants require 1 inch of rainfall every 7-10 days once established. If plants wilt soon after planting, water thoroughly right away
- An exception to the rule is that very large and very small plants require different amounts of water. Trees and evergreens may only need watering 2-3 times a month during establishment, whereas ground covers, annuals and perennials may need almost daily watering.
- Letting the hose run slowly at the base of each plant or using a soaker hose is a great way to water your new plants.
- Weather counts but don't be fooled by a brief shower. Hot days dry plants out quicker; cool days won't. To be sure your plants need water feel the soil at the base of your plants.

No watering schedule is a substitute for observing the condition of your plants. Check the moisture at the soil level (not just the mulch) within the root zone of the plant when deciding whether or not to water.

- Remember, too much water can be just as harmful as not enough water. If your soil remains constantly wet in some areas do not water unless it dries out.
- Sargent's does not recommend using automated sprinkler systems to water *Landscape Plantings*. This practice often ends with the death of landscape plants due to overwatering.
- This rule applies to trees planted in irrigated turf areas as well. It is best not to rely on your lawn sprinkler to water newly planted trees. In fact, it may be necessary to adjust the lawn sprinkler after checking the soil moisture level in the root zone of your tree.
- In most cases, your garden has been designed with plants that should not need supplemental watering *except during the establishment period*, and in case of extreme drought and heat.

Sod and seed are very sensitive to moisture and also require daily or even twice daily watering during establishment, especially in hot weather. When watering sod lift up on the edges to check the soil for moisture.

- Your plants have already been fertilized. In the upcoming years you will need to fertilize annually to encourage growth. In most cases a granular time release fertilizer is recommended.
- If you ever have a concern or question do not hesitate to stop by one of our garden centers or call us at 289-0022 (North Store) or 289- 6068 (Sargent's on 2nd).