



Watering Instructions for Shrubs and Trees

After the tree or shrub has been planted, it is important to thoroughly water the plant, unless soils are already saturated with recent heavy rains. During the first year, your plants will need approximately one inch of water (or rainfall) per week. This means watering 2 to 3 times per week in hot weather and 1 to 2 times per week in cool weather. Care should be taken to water a newly planted shrub or tree slowly, so that runoff is minimized. Water should be administered to all newly-planted shrubs and trees on an "as-needed" basis throughout their entire first season. This is necessary because the plant's root system is not yet capable of supporting the plant. However, do not over-water. All plants should be watered in the early morning, before the heat of the day. Always check the moisture content of the surrounding soil before watering. The most common causes of tree failure are over-watering and damage from lawnmowers. All trees and shrubs perform best with a regular fertilization program, beginning in early spring. It is generally best to stop fertilizing shrubs and trees in August. This gives the plant time to slow down and harden before winter.

Watering Instructions for New Sod

Immediately after installation, apply about one inch of water to the new sod. This can be measured by placing a can under the sprinkler and watching how long it takes to fill one inch. The sod needs to be kept moist for the next 2 or 3 weeks, or until it has had a chance to firmly root. Limit activity on your new sod as much as possible during this time. The best time of day to water is early in the morning or in the evening. Remember that sod near buildings or pavement will dry out more quickly because of the reflected heat. Do not mow sod until it is completely rooted, and then mow at a high bench setting.