

Delaware Valley Spray Service, Inc.

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Watering Guide for Home Gardeners

What to Water	When to Water	How to Water	Comments
Trees	Newly planted trees (first two years): Weekly until late fall	Allow hose to run slowly or use a soaker hose until the entire root zone is completely moist.	Form a soil basin to concentrate water into the soil ball or root zone. No watering necessary during periods of adequate rainfall.
	Established trees (after second year): Twice a month during drought conditions		
Shrubs - Evergreen	Newly planted trees (first two years): Weekly until ground freezes	Allow hose to run slowly or use a soaker hose until the entire root zone is completely moist.	Evergreens lose moisture from leaves or needles throughout the year. Soil should go into winter moist. No watering necessary during periods of adequate rainfall.
	Established trees (after second year): Twice a month during drought conditions		
Shrubs - Deciduous	Newly planted trees (first two years): Weekly until leaves drop	Allow hose to run slowly or use a soaker hose until the entire root zone is completely moist.	Evergreens lose moisture from leaves or needles throughout the year. Soil should go into winter moist. No watering necessary during periods of adequate rainfall.
	Established trees (after second year): Twice a month during growing season if drought occurs		
Flowers	Newly planted (first two weeks): Three times weekly	Use overhead sprinkler or soaker hose.	Water thoroughly at planting time and to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Avoid frequent light sprinkling which causes shallow rooting.
	Established (after second week): Once a week		
Lawns (Bluegrasses, Fescues, and Ryegrasses)	Newly planted Seed: Daily until established, keep surface moist Sod: Daily until new root system knits to soil	Use fine sprinkler, moved to cover entire area. Water as infrequently as possible - 1 inch per week in a single application applied uniformly without runoff.	Straw or cellulose fiber mulch reduces need for water and prevents drying. Sandy soils require an increased frequency at a reduced application rate of 1/2 inch per application twice a week.
	Established Early evening watering may encourage disease problems. Most efficient to water early morning, after 4 AM.		
Zoysia	These grasses seldom need water in this area.		
Vegetables	Shallow-rooted vegetables Two times a week, approximately 1/2 inch per watering (when no rain).	Use overhead sprinkler and preferably "trickle" or "drip" irrigation system	Individual vegetables have critical growth periods when watering is essential.
	Deeply-rooted vegetables Once a week, 1 inch of water (when no rain).		

Developed by:

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