



WATERING INSTRUCTIONS FROM



Congratulations on your new space! Thank you for letting us help you make it great. Here are easy to follow watering instructions for continued success. Find the category that fits you best. Keep in mind that you may fit into more than one category.

Category 1 – New shade or ornamental tree/s that loss their leaves in fall

You got a new tree! Trees are so low maintenance so this one is easy peasy. Trees prefer to be watered slowly, thoroughly and less frequently. All you need to do is drag your hose to the base of the tree and turn the water on a slow flow to saturate the root zone. The duration of watering depends on the size of the tree. Trees (under 10') requires soaking for 45-90 minutes 2-3 times a week from the time it is planted until we have consistently freezing temperatures. During the heat of summer, it may be required to increase duration and frequency of watering. You do not need to water the foliage.

Category 2 – New evergreen tree/s or shrubs

Evergreens are great for winter interest in the garden. Remember though, these plants do not go dormant and may require a bit of care in winter. They prefer to be watered at the root zone, slowly and thoroughly. All you need to do is drag your hose to the base of the tree and turn the water on a slow flow to saturate the root zone. The duration of watering depends on the size of the tree/shrub. A small tree (4- 10') probably requires soaking for 45-90 minutes 2-3 times a week, dwarfs or small shrubs (under 4') require soaking 20-45 minutes 2-3 times a week, larger specimen trees (10'+) require soaking 90-120 minutes 2-3 times a week from the time it is planted until we have consistently freezing temperatures. During the heat of summer, it may be required to water more frequently and mist the foliage of your evergreens. To combat the stress of a dry and cold winter it is best to put ice around the base of your plants. The ice acts like snow and helps provide much needed moisture to your tree as the sun comes out. **DO NOT WATER IN WINTER.** You will likely over-water leaving excess moisture that the plant cannot use causing the root system to freeze.

Category 3 – New ornamental shrubs and perennials

A J Lyn's Garden is not complete without a striking combination of shrubs and perennials showing off during all the seasons. The easiest way to water gardens that are largely new shrubs and perennials is with a sprinkler if you do not want to run soaker hoses through your entire garden. Run the sprinkler throughout the space for a good 30-60 minutes 2-4 times a week from the time of planting until we have consistently freezing temperatures. The duration and frequency of watering depends on the temperature, moisture level and the amount of sunlight your site receives.

Category 4 – Containers on Roof deck, Terrace or Patio

Watering containers is very easy. In the summer, it is best to get into a pattern of watering daily. Water until water comes out of the drainage holes. Containers do not hold moisture well because of their exposure to all of the weather elements such as heat, sun and wind. If you are unsure if you should water, stick your finger in the soil to your second knuckle, if it is moist-skip watering, if it is dry- water. If you need to go out of town for more than a day or two during summer, you will need to have someone water. We do this, if you don't have someone.

Category 5- New sod

New sod needs to be watered with a sprinkler for at least 20-40 minutes a day. It is really best if you can fully saturate it after it is installed then water lightly with a sprinkler two times daily for the first 2-3 weeks. I realize that is unrealistic for most, so aim for once a day. Keep dogs and kiddos off until it has rooted in (approximately 3 weeks).

Category 6 – In ground Annuals

Annuals should be watered 3-4 times a week with a hose or sprinkler. The more saturated the ground is the less you will need to water. During hot spells, you may need to water daily. Annuals are heavy feeders so every 2-3 weeks you may want to apply a bloom boosting fertilizer during your watering session. I like to use the Miracle Gro® Liqua Feed® Bloom Booster® because it is easy to apply with the hose attachment sprayer. You can find this at most home improvement stores or garden centers.

BONUS TIPS

- Invest in a soaker hose or two if you want to simplify watering. You could even add an automatic timer.
- "Ice" your evergreens in winter. It will save you money and your plants will appreciate it.
- Fertilize in-ground annuals in summer from Mother's Day – Labor Day.
- Trees, shrubs and perennials do not require fertilizer the first year they are in ground.
- Is watering driving you crazy? Talk with us about an automatic irrigation system.