

Landscape Watering Tips

Annuals, Perennials, Trees and Shrubs



Too much water and too little water are both bad for your plants. Like Goldilocks, the amount of water should be “just right.”

- ❑ **Water your plants slowly, deeply and infrequently.** Moisten the entire root zone and then let it partially dry out. Avoid frequent shallow watering; that causes shallow rooting and makes your plants more prone to drought stress. Overwatering can promote disease, leach nutrients from the soil, and waste water.
- ❑ **Give new plantings regular water.** All plants, even drought-tolerant ones, need regular water until they are established. Be prepared to water your landscape regularly for one or two growing seasons. Plants must have access to a supply of water, or they will wilt and eventually die.
- ❑ **Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation rather than sprinklers.** Soaker hoses and drip irrigation deliver the water directly to the soil, making it easy to give your plants the slow, deep watering that will help them develop deep roots. These watering systems are most effective when covered with mulch.
- ❑ **Use thick layers of organic mulch in landscape beds.** This will help the soil and plant roots from drying out. It's best to apply mulch when the soil is damp to help retain moisture. Call In Harmony for prices to apply mulch.
- ❑ **Give your plants enough—but not too much—water.** To see how much you're watering, dig into the soil several hours after watering to see how deep the water has reached. Here are a few different methods:

1. Dig a small hole with a trowel and check soil moisture.
2. Push a long screwdriver or metal rod into the ground. It will move easily through moist soil but slow down or stop when it reaches dry soil.
3. Use a soil probe. This is a shallow tube that can be pushed deeply into the soil and pulled out, filled with soil.

Check every few weeks in summer. The soil should partially dry out between waterings.

- ❑ **Monitor your plants for water needs or drought stress.** Most plants are 90 percent water. When they do not have enough water, plants droop and wilt, most often in the afternoon heat because they are giving off more water than they are absorbing. If the plant does not recover by evening, the soil is too dry. Water immediately.
- ❑ **Group plants with similar water needs together.** Annuals need regular, deep watering, once or twice a week. Group these plants together near sidewalks and doorways for the greatest visual impact and easiest watering. Other plants may vary widely in their need for water. Some shrubs and trees need little or no water other than rainfall once established.
- ❑ **If you have questions** about how much to water your trees, shrubs, lawn or other plantings, give us a call. 

