

Watering Landscape Plant Materials

Over the years we have found that most plant material dies from improper watering. This can be caused by too much or too little water. The best way to test if your plant materials are getting just the right amount is through proper amending of soil, programming your irrigation system based on the time of year or weather patterns and to test the soil at least 6" below the base of the plant. In the hot months (June-August) your plants may need more water than in the cooler months (Sept.-October). As always it is best to discuss your landscape specific needs with your landscape designer or contractor.

New Plants – Drip Systems

- Drip System- For the first 2-4 weeks you will need to have your drip system set to 20-30 everyday, preferably in the morning hours.
- After plant material seems to be integrating into the soil (after 3-4 weeks) you can take down the watering to every other day for 20-30 min.
- After plant material matures (after one year) the drip can most likely run every third day for 30 min. or twice a day at 15 min.
- Due to Colorado's changing weather please note that the above schedule is generalized and does not apply to every landscape. In the warmer months plants may need supplemental watering and in the cooler months you may not have to water as often.

Pop-Ups

Planting beds that use pop-up irrigation heads output more water than a drip system over the same amount of time. Depending on the size of your planting bed over head spraying times will vary. On average anywhere from 5-10 min. twice a day, every other day during the hot months and every third day in the cooler months is usually adequate.

Sod Areas

Sod requires more water during the summer season than plant material does. If trees are planted in a grass area, no additional irrigation should be required. Trees will get too much water if it has two types of irrigation. Sod should only be watered three times per week once established. Most developments, cities or county's have their own guidelines for a watering schedule that should be followed by the homeowner. New sod does need to be watered more for the first month, where a permit is usually required. A schedule for watering new sod is to follow in the manual.

Late Fall & Winter Watering

For the months that your sprinkler system is turned off, the most important thing to do for your new landscape is to WINTER WATER. During the months of October-March, on a sunny day (40 degrees or above) take your hose to your trees, shrubs and perennials. Let the hose drip on a slow trickle, water each tree for 10-15 minutes, each shrub for 5 minutes and each perennial for 3-5 minutes. This will help promote the root growth of your plants and success of newly or transplanted material. Winter watering should be done up to 2 times per month, especially if it is a dry winter.