

Chalet

LANDSCAPE · NURSERY · GARDEN CENTER

FACT SHEET

WATER WISE

Basic Rules

- Deep, infrequent watering to saturate the soil to a minimum of 6"
- Newly planted plants should be treated like intensive care patients: water directly onto rootballs daily for the first 3 weeks, then 3 times weekly for 6 weeks
- Be conscious of watering needs for 1 – 3 years until establishment
- Water in the mornings to avoid daytime evaporation and overnight disease spread
- Organic mulch is strongly recommended



Guidelines

- Plants need 1" of rain or the equivalent in supplemental watering every week when temperatures are 75 degrees; for every 10 degrees more, add an additional 1/2".
- To prevent transpiration stress at higher temperatures, water 2-3 times during the week, dividing the 2" between applications.



Plants

- Containers – may need watering 2 x daily during hot summer conditions
 - Beds – basic rules after plants are established
 - Perennials – know each plant's requirements; group like plants together
 - If only automatic sprinklers are used – group plants with like needs together



Turf

- Established vs. New
 - 1/2" of water / month to keep crowns alive but dormant when established
 - Daily inspection for 3-4 weeks if newly planted
- Seed – keep soil moist through germination plus 4 weeks (3 mows)
- Sod – light syringing 2x/day for 3-4 weeks until roots have knitted into soil (test by gently trying to pull sod up)

WATER WISE (continued)

Symptoms of Damaged Plants

Underwatering

Wilting of deciduous leaves
Browning of leaf margins (scorch)
Dropping of green leaves
Root loss
Eventually entire browning of foliage
Ultimate death of plant

Overwatering

Yellowing of lower foliage
Wilting of leaves
Browning of leaf margins
Root loss due to rot organisms
Chlorosis (yellowing)
Ultimate death of plant

Soil Type

•Clay

- Understand drainage by doing the testing with an 8" deep hole filled with water
- Add organic soil amendments
- Mulch with 2" only
- Holds more minerals and nutrients if drainage is adequate

•Sand

- Drains more quickly
- Add organic soil amendments to enhance moisture retention - peat moss is good for sand
- Requires more nutrient additions
- Mulch up to 4" deep to keep soil more uniformly moist

