



TREE & SHRUB WATERING GUIDE

Watering 101

Your new trees and shrubs should thrive, not just survive. Water is a key to their success. Most root failure occurs in the first 3 months due to improper watering (under- or over-watered) and leaves may wilt and drop. A water-stressed plant in the first 3 months is vulnerable to decline, disease and insect attack in the future. Rapid root establishment is crucial in the first 3 months of planting.

The Rule of 3

Planting/transplanting shock occurs to trees and shrubs and it is imperative to restore and reestablish a healthy root system. Roots will grow quickly when watered properly.

3x  Per Week  for **First 3 Months** 

Key Tips for Watering:



Build a soil ring/basin at the drip line of the shrub. *Small trees & shrubs:* Fill the basin 2– 3x, 20 – 30 mins at a time. *Larger trees & shrubs:* Apply a slow trickle of water for 45 mins around the drip line of the plant.



Avoid overhead watering. Most plants absorb water through the root system as opposed to the foliage. Overhead watering can also lead to disease.



Avoid high water pressure. It may wash away fresh soil or mulch and expose roots to air. Slow & steady wins the race.

Key Tool Tips:



Moisture check: Use your finger to test at least 2 – 3 inches into the soil at the base of the plant. If it is dry, it needs water. If it feels moist, the plant is good for the day.



Set soaker hose around the base of the plant half way between trunk and drip line. It releases a slow drip so water penetrates deep into the soil.



Set hose at the base of the plant at a slow trickle with a soft stream.

The Importance of 3-year Growing Seasons:

Larger plants, compared to smaller plants need a full three years to fully establish their roots and restore balance with the canopy.

Watering Summary:

Watering should continue past the first 3 months:

First 3 Months



Per Week



After 3 Months



Per Week



Growing (Apr–Nov) Season Summary:

2nd Growing Year

1x



Per Month



3rd Growing Year



Only during extreme hot or dry conditions

