

## **Pinnacle Landscaping 570.698.6116**

### **Watering tips for Trees & Shrubs: When to water**

- If you decide to decrease lawn watering, you should not discontinue watering trees and shrubs. They cannot go dormant during the growing season.
- Trees and shrubs need moist, but not saturated, soil in order to grow well, resist insects, diseases and winter injury, and to produce flowers and fruit.
- From early spring through August, apply adequate water to all woody plants. From September through mid-October, gradually withhold water to allow plants to "harden off." This reduces the chances of wood damage by early freezing temperatures or snowstorms. In mid-November, prior to the ground freezing, apply water liberally to allow water to reach and saturate the root area. This will help to prevent winter kill.
- During the growing season, do not over-water. When you water, soak the soil approximately 12 inches deep. Wet the entire root area, which extends out to as much as three times the limb spread. Newly transplanted trees and shrubs need water more often than established ones. Adequate, but not excessive watering, results in healthy trees and shrubs.
- For foundation and border plantings, you can use a sprinkler on the entire area or use soaker hoses or a trickle/drip irrigation system to prevent water waste.
- Use of soaker hoses, trickle or drip systems allows water penetration to the root zone with minimum surface wetting and water waste. This can save 60 percent or more in water use.
- A berm around the tree or shrub base may be filled with water for slow infiltration and percolation into the root zone.
- Mulch materials placed over the soil around plants reduce evaporation and water runoff. Mulch also improves water penetration into the root zone and limits weed growth that also competes for water. Mulch may be organic (shredded leaves, bark, straw) or inorganic (gravel)..
- Do not water foliage of fruit trees or deciduous trees. Watering encourages rust, blight and mildew diseases.
- Uniform watering of trees and shrubs means better quality in fruit production.
- Species such as green ash, caragana, Russian olive, lilac, cottoneaster, pines and Douglas fir are sensitive to excess water.
- Evergreens can be watered on the needles and limbs and not be sun-scalded or burnt.
- Use of landscape cloth mulch around ornamentals conserves water and discourages weed growth.

### **Watering Tips: Lawns, Trees & Shrubs**

#### **Watering Tips for Established Lawns on a Regular Feeding Program**

- Average 1" per week
- Water twice a week, 1/2" per watering
- Measure by using pan fill method

- During a rainy spell, cut back watering
- Water any time of day but make sure grass is dry before sunset
- It is very important that the grass is dry if a disease problem exists or existed in the last 2 years.

### **Watering Tips for New or Seeded Lawns**

- Thoroughly soak 6" of soil after sowing seeds
- New lawns may require watering 3 to 4 times a day
- Soil must stay moist for all the grass seeds to germinate
- Use a fine spray or mist to prevent washing away seeds and soil.
- Avoid standing water

### **Tree and Shrub Watering Instructions**

The roots of newly planted trees and shrubs must not dry out completely. This is especially important during the first growing season, since such stress may kill the plant. Here are some tips on how and when to water your newly planted trees & shrubs.

#### **HOW**

1. Remove the nozzle from your hose and place it approximately six inches from the stem or trunk.
2. Apply small stream of water (1/4") to soak the ground for 3 to 15 minutes depending on plant size.
3. Or, use a Gator Bag watering device for each tree and fill every 3 days (ask about this time saving watering device) or use a 5 gallon bucket with a small hole in the bottom.
4. Shade, pine and spruce trees all require different amounts of water:
  - Shrubs 3 minutes
  - Ornamentals (Flowering Crabs, etc. ) 10 minutes
  - Evergreens (6' ht) 15 minutes
  - Deciduous (2 1/2" Cal.) 15 minutes (add 15 minutes to every additional inch of caliper)
5. Use the wire test to make sure you are watering adequately (this should be done before you water).
  - Cut a coat hanger and straighten to a length of 12"
  - Push wire into the soil approximately 6-12" from the base of the plant

- Remove the wire
- If the wire is clear or dusty ..... Water the plants
- If the wire comes out muddy ..... The soil is too wet
- If the wire comes out moist with a small amount of soil clinging to it .... The soil is properly watered
- If the wire will not penetrate ..... Water immediately

## **WHEN**

As a quick reference (under normal conditions):

April 15 - May 15 Water once a week

May 16 - Sept 15 Water twice a week

Sept 16 - Oct 31 Water once a week

Mid-November - Early December Water once when the soil is not frozen

\*\*\* Do not water outside plants and trees in the winter; they will freeze to their death. They need to go dormant.

\*\*\*During the first growing season, a small sized shrub transplanted from a one gallon container will require 4 to 6 gallons per week. Once established, small shrubs will grow well on 2 gallons per week. Larger shrubs may need as much as 10 gallons per week. True low water use shrubs may require less water than this.

**CAUTION: MORE TREES AND PLANTS ARE KILLED BY TOO MUCH WATER THAN TOO LITTLE. OVER WATERING CAUSES SUFFOCATING AND ROTTING OF THE ROOTS!**

## **SYMPTOMS OF WATER STRESS**

Wilting and leaf scorch are symptoms of water stress. However, over-watering of plants can create similar browning symptoms and even cause the leaves to drop. Roots need oxygen to survive and when the soil is over-saturated with water there is little oxygen for the plant's roots. Without a healthy root system the plant is no longer able to absorb water and will show signs of water stress. Many gardeners assume these symptoms are from a lack of water and they will continue to add to the problem by over-watering, eventually causing the plant to die.