



Watering Guidelines

Annuals/Groundcover:

Annuals and Groundcover should be watered every day until they are established, and then they can be watered as needed.

New Perennials/Shrubs/Trees:

These recommendations are for the first year after planting. Watering amounts may vary due to weather conditions.

- ❖ Each time these are watered, the root ball should be completely saturated.
- ❖ During spring/fall, these plants should be watered two to three times per week.
- ❖ During summer, these plants should be watered three to four times per week.
- ❖ During winter, deciduous bushes/trees do not need water once the leaves have fallen; evergreens should be watered bi-weekly unless the ground is frozen.

Importance of Watering:

Watering your newly seeded lawn is the most important step you can take in ensuring a lush, green lawn. Adequate watering will allow the seed to germinate faster and establish more densely, reducing the prevalence of weeds and resulting in a better looking lawn in less time. When newly seeded lawns are not watered frequently, seeds are unable to germinate properly, and weeds and old grasses have the potential to re-establish.

Watering Over Bare Soil:

- ❖ **If you are watering a newly seeded area that has no previous grass or weed growth present, it's important to water frequently enough to keep the soil moist and dark.** This should be done through light irrigation that does not erode the soil or disturb the seed.
- ❖ **For small areas, this can usually be done by hand with a hose. Fit your hose with a multi-setting nozzle, then set it to a heavy mist.** Water the area at this setting in a uniform pattern until the soil is moist, stopping just before puddles form.
- ❖ **For larger areas, a sprinkler with a high arch output is best.** Sprinklers that spray water horizontal to the ground may dislodge seeds, so avoid this type of watering device. Set your

sprinkler so that all seeded areas are watered and the surface is thoroughly soaked. If you plan on using an irrigation system to water a newly seeded area, turn on the system manually to determine how long it takes to adequately moisten the area.

Watering Areas Being Overseeded:

Lawns with grass and/or weeds still present that have been verticut are not quite as fragile as bare soil seeded lawns. The existing grass/weeds will act as an anchor for the new seed and will help retain moisture. However, watering is still very important to ensure growth and overall lawn health. Any watering device you have is fine for this, whether it is with a hose or sprinkler, just be sure the soil is kept moist. While you may find you need to water less frequently due to the existing ground cover, you may also find that areas in full sun will require more watering than those that are shaded or that have thicker cover.

Watering Tips:

1. **Watering must be done multiple times per day to ensure maximum lawn growth and health.** Dusk, or shortly after, is the best time to water a newly seeded lawn. Doing this ensures that the soil will remain moist overnight. Water again early to mid-morning, and again mid-afternoon.
2. **For large areas that cannot be watered at the same time, divide the newly seeded areas into smaller sections.** Focus on one section per day, watering thoroughly according to the instructions above. Rotate among the sections on a daily and consistent basis. As seeds begin to germinate, you may notice that one section needs more attention than another. If this is the case, adjust your watering regimen to give more attention to the struggling area.
3. **With overseeded or newly established lawns (about 4-6 weeks after seeding), erosion becomes less of a concern and watering can be reduced.** Aim to provide about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water every 3 to 4 days. To ensure you are providing this amount, use a rain gauge or a container to collect water and time how long it takes to reach $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Use this as your guideline for how long to water.
4. **If your lawn was seeded in the spring, water according to the instructions above until the grass becomes thick and dense, which should be in approximately 8 to 12 weeks.** Throughout the summer, water, as needed, during dry spells to keep new grass healthy. Water throughout the fall until temperatures drop below 50 degrees fahrenheit on a consistent basis, or until the beginning of December.

MARCH – APRIL – NOVEMBER (COOLER MONTHS)

- ❖ WEEK 1: 2" OF WATER PER DAY FOR 7 DAYS (3 – 4 WATERING PERIODS PER DAY)
- ❖ WEEK 2: 1" OF WATER PER DAY (1 – 2 WATERING PERIODS PER DAY)
- ❖ MOW SOD @ APPROX 10 – 14 DAYS
- ❖ WEEK 3 + 4: .5" OF WATER PER DAY (EVERY OTHER DAY)
- ❖ WEEK 5 AND BEYOND: WATER AS NEEDED

MAY – SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

- ❖ WEEK 1: 2" OF WATER PER DAY FOR 7 DAYS (3 – 4 WATERING PERIODS PER DAY)
- ❖ WEEK 2: 1 – 2" OF WATER PER DAY (2 – 3 WATERING PERIODS PER DAY)
- ❖ MOW SOD @ APPROX 10 – 14 DAYS
- ❖ WEEK 3 + 4: 1" OF WATER PER DAY (EVERY OTHER DAY)
- ❖ WEEK 5 AND BEYOND: WATER AS NEEDED

JUNE – JULY – AUGUST (SUMMER)

- ❖ WEEK 1: 2" OR MORE OF WATER PER DAY FOR 7 DAYS (4 - 5 WATERING PERIODS PER DAY)
- ❖ WEEK 2: 2" OF WATER PER DAY (2 – 3 WATERING PERIODS PER DAY)
- ❖ MOW SOD @ APPROX 10 – 14 DAYS
- ❖ WEEK 3 + 4: 2" OF WATER PER DAY (EVERY OTHER DAY)
- ❖ WEEK 5 AND BEYOND: WATER AS NEEDED

DECEMBER – JANUARY – FEBRUARY (WINTER)

- ❖ Schedule watering at mid-day so the sod can absorb it well before the water freezes.
- ❖ Only water if the air temperature is beyond 40 degrees F and the soil is not frozen. Don't worry about watering if the temperature is not going up. The cool temperature and frequent precipitation will keep your turf moist.
- ❖ Depending on the frequency of snow, you may water once or twice every month during the winter season.
- ❖ When watering through the year, ensure that all parts of your lawn are receiving equal amounts of water. Pay attention to edges/corners because those parts are easily missed. Areas near buildings also tend to dry faster.