

A close-up photograph of a green plant with large, heart-shaped leaves. A sprinkler head is visible, spraying water onto the plant. The text "Watering Guide" is overlaid in white on a red background.

Watering Guide

Caring for Newly Installed Plants

Watering is the most important thing you can do for new plants. Newly installed plants need to be watered for the first year. Trees and shrubs should be watered individually. An easy way to think about how long and frequent to water is to think about the size of your plant and its root system. There are many factors such as location, type of soil, sun and shaded areas, wind exposure and more, but this is a simple starting point for your plant's watering needs



The average tree we sell has a rootball of approximately 2-3' wide. Compare that with a perennial that its root system may be couple of inches deep. To keep plants appropriately watered, they will each have different requirements. Trees will benefit from less frequent, longer and slower soakings. After all, the root ball is 2-3' deep in the ground. Due to the depth, it takes moisture much longer to evaporate and be used so we don't need as much water. With smaller plant material, the root systems are much shallower. This is one of the main reasons why we need to water more frequently with shorter time intervals. Remember, we should water and treat each plant individually. The next few pages feature more specific guidelines to help with proper watering throughout the year.



How To Reach Us-

(573) 442-9499 | superior@tranquility.net | [@superiorgardencenter](https://www.instagram.com/superiorgardencenter)



Trees

We recommend a slow drip hose placed at the top of the root ball (next to the trunk). This enables the water to be absorbed directly into the root system. If the water is on too high, it can run off the root ball and water everything else but your tree. TO make sure that the water is getting to the tree, dig down a couple of inches and feel the soil. Press on the root ball for moisture. If it is wet, watering can be cut back. If the soil is dry or crumbles, then increase your watering slightly.



Shrubs

Watering shrubs can be done either by a slow drip or overhead watering by hand. If you are watering overhead, select a group of 7 or so plants and cycle through them 3-5 times to make sure they get a good soaking. If you have an irrigation system with the proper settings, shrubs can be maintained through the system after initial watering.



Perennials

We recommend watering more frequently. This can be done overhead, by hand.



At Time of Planting

REMEMBER: all newly installed plants must be thoroughly watered in at the time of planting with a long, slow soaking by hand.



Seasonal Watering

SPRING

MARCH, APRIL, MAY

Depending on the rainfall, plants normally don't need to be watered as often in the spring season.

TREES

If we go through the season with little rain, a long single soaking (24-48 hours depending on the tree size) could be enough to get it through the spring.

SHRUBS

If we are going through a drought, shrubs may need to be watered once a month. If an irrigation system is running, shrubs will not need any addition watering.

PERENNIALS, ANNUALS AND HOUSEPLANTS

Smaller plants will need water if we go through multiple weeks of dry weather. Because their root systems are much smaller and shallower, it is easier for them to dry out faster. No additional watering is needed if your irrigation system is running.

FALL

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

During the fall season, frequent watering is usually not needed because of the amount of moisture received in the fall. If it is a dry fall, the summer watering technique should continue but with further duration between watering's.

WINTER

DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

Depending on rainfall and temperatures, plants normally do not need to be watered often in the winter.

TREES & SHRUBS

If watering is necessary, do so on a midday (45-50 degrees) to allow the water to penetrate the soil and root ball. Follow slow drip method by placing a hose at the top of the root ball and letting it drip.

PERENNIALS

Same rules as above apply, but utilizing overhead watering.

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Seasonal Watering

SUMMER

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

These are the months that need the most attention. You want to make sure that your plants are getting enough water. Mid-Missouri can have some very hot and dry summers.

TREES

At time of planting, water the tree (up to 3") with a slow drip for 24 hours. If the tree is over 3", the slow drip should be 48 hours. Time between watering after that will vary depending on your soil and if you have irrigation. Irrigation is usually Topsoil: If you have topsoil, check for watering once every seven days. During summer weather you will probably need to water every seven to 14 days depending on plant type/irrigation. To check moisture level of the tree, dig down at least eight to 10 inches alongside the root ball, soil in root ball should be moist not powder dry be watering again.

Clay: Depending on the severity of your clay soil, check for watering every seven days. Clay tends to hold moisture for a longer period of time, so watering once every two to three weeks may be sufficient through the summer months.

SHRUBS

Irrigation in beds will help with shrubs. Newly planted shrubs may need additional water beyond what an irrigation system will give (you do not want to drown other plants). Check newly planted shrubs on a regular basis (about once a week) to get an idea how fast they are using water. Water 1 gallon container plants different that a 5 gallon container plants. There could be a 1-3 hour difference. (A small #1 container will dry out much faster than a #5). In beds without an irrigation system, soaker hoses work very well to water a large area at once. Group watering to the plant that needs the least amount of water. Individually water the plants that need additional water beyond the group to prevent drowning the other plants.

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