



Watering Instructions

Where Buying Plants is a Walk in the Park!

Thank you for purchasing your new plants from Springhouse Gardens. It is very important to water your new plantings properly. Their survival and your guarantee depends upon it!

Watering needs will vary with the time of year, the weather, the size and variety of plant, the exposure of the site, and the soil conditions. It is best to water newly planted trees or shrubs thoroughly several times during the first ten days after planting which is the "critical period." After that, the plants' watering needs will diminish somewhat, but the plants will need supplemental watering for the next few years to become well established with far reaching root systems.

It is best to deeply water each plant with a slow trickle of water to moisten the whole root area. A soaker hose can provide water with a minimum of evaporation, but it is best to not rely on them to do all the watering needed. Also, do not water so often that the soil remains saturated all of the time. The soil should be allowed to dry out somewhat between watering. This does not mean that the soil should become "bone" dry. Use the finger test to check soil moisture. Put your finger under the mulch into the top layer of soil and feel how wet the soil is. If moisture is evident, wait a little longer to water. If the top layer of soil is dry, it is time to add moisture. To promote deep roots, always water thoroughly, then allow the plants to dry out again. During periods of dry weather, when there is no regular rainfall and temperatures are high or if there are days with very drying winds and no rainfall, all landscape plantings will need some supplemental watering, especially newly planted material.

From April to November, in well-drained soil, a tree should be watered thoroughly once a week (after the initial planting week and depending on rainfall). New shrub and perennial plantings should be watered thoroughly 2-3 times per week until the roots are established, then 1-2 times per week depending on weather. If adequate rainfall occurs (1" of rain per week), no supplemental watering should be needed.

~~X~~ From November through the winter months, if there is no rainfall or snowfall to provide moisture, evergreen trees and shrubs will need occasional supplemental watering at least once a month. Drying winter winds and bright sunny days can cause plants to dry out very quickly. Broadleaf evergreens such as boxwoods, hollies, southern magnolias, laurels, rhododendron and azaleas are especially prone to drying out and desiccation, which means water loss through their leaves. A deep watering going into winter and a 2" layer of mulch around the roots will help these plants survive the winter. An anti-desiccant such as Wilt-Pruf applied to the leaves can also be very beneficial. Most deciduous plants (those which lose their leaves) will not need any extra watering during the winter months.

These instructions should be used as a guide only. Proper watering is a very difficult task to explain and perform, so common sense should prevail. If a plant is wilting, first check the soil before you water. The symptoms of too little water (wilting leaves, yellowing leaves, browning leaves) are the same as too much water. So always look before you leap for the hose but during dryer periods be ready to leap fairly often! This will help your new plants and your entire garden not only survive, but thrive.

If you have specific questions about any of your plants, please feel free to call us for more information. We hope you enjoy your new plants!