



Tree & Shrub

CARE GUIDE

Watering



When should I water newly planted trees and shrubs?

Weeks 1 to 2 - Water Daily

Weeks 3 to 12 - Water Every 2 to 3 Days

Until Established - Weekly

Once Established - Seldom requires additional watering except when under drought conditions.

How long do I need to water regularly?

Regular watering must occur until the tree or shrub is established. A shrub will typically take 2 years to establish while a 2" caliper tree will take 3 years. Plants are considered to be established when their root spread equals the spread of the plant's canopy.

How much do I water?

How much water you use can differ per plant varieties and where the plant is located in your yard.

Trees need approximately 10 gallons of water per week or you can run a hose slowly for at least 15 - 30 minutes to water deeply and encourage deep roots. Shrubs will typically require about 1/3 of the volume of the container that the shrub was purchased in. More water will be needed as the root system grows.



Can I water too much?

Yes. Roots need oxygen to survive and when the soil is over-watered and saturated, the roots can become damaged. This damage makes the water unavailable to them and can cause the plant to wilt. When this occurs, it becomes very tempting to give the plant additional water which will only cause the plant more stress.

This is why it is always important to check the soil to see if it is wet or dry. The best way to achieve this is to dig down a couple inches to check the moisture level.

Mulching



Adding mulch around your plant is far more than just aesthetic. A 3" layer of mulch can:

- *Limit evaporation and keep the soil and roots moist.
- *Protect the roots from extreme temperatures by keeping the soil cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- *Creates an attractive appearance.
- *Keeps lawn equipment at a safe distance from the base of the plants.
- *Helps to keep down weeds.
- *Helps improve the soil health as the organic mulch breaks down.



Pruning

Pruning - not the hair-cut kind of pruning - but real, honest to goodness pruning is an art.

For best pruning practices you should talk to your garden center representative or designer to find out the proper way to prune your shrub.

General Pruning Times:

Spring Flowering - Prune immediately after blooming.

Summer & Fall Flowering - Prune early spring just before they leaf out.

Evergreen Shrubs - Prune late March to early April before growth appears. Light pruning can be done in June to early July.

Deciduous Trees - Most trees should be pruned in January and February while dormant.

Evergreen Trees (except Pines) - Should be pruned in late winter before the new growth starts in spring.

Pines - Prune in spring as new growth emerges.

Hydrangea - Check out [HERE](#) for how and when to prune Hydrangea.

Fertilizing



Trees & Shrubs should be fertilized in the late fall after the plant is dormant or in early spring.

Plants should NOT be fertilized from mid-summer to early fall as this could stimulate growth too late in the season and increase the risk of winter injury.

While there are many types and formulations of fertilizer when in doubt, use a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10. Always follow the directions on the package for application rates and recommended ways to apply. As tempting as it may be to give the plant an extra dose of fertilizer to help it out - more isn't better. In fact, too much fertilizer can damage the plant making it susceptible to insects or could even kill your plant.