

Baxter Gardens Watering Guide

Helping your new plantings thrive is all about giving roots the right amount of water at the right time. Use this guide to keep trees, shrubs, perennials, and grass healthy from the first season through establishment.

Note: Watering requirements vary by season. Summer plantings typically need more frequent watering than spring or fall plantings.

Watering by Plant Size & Age

	New Planting (first season)	1–2 Years (establishing)	Established (3+ years)
Trees (2" caliper or 15/20 gal container tree)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- At planting: soak root ball- Weeks 1–2: water daily- Weeks 3–12: every 2–3 days- After 12 weeks: once weekly if no rain- Amount per watering: ~1.5–2 gal per inch caliper (~3–4 gal for 2" tree)- Container-grown trees dry faster—monitor closely	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Once weekly in dry spells- More often in hot, windy weather- Water should reach 12"+ deep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Water only in drought- Deep soak soil 12–18" inside and beyond dripline
Shrubs (avg. 3-gal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Weeks 1–2: every 1–2 days- Weeks 3–4: every 3–4 days- After week 4: weekly if no rain- Amount per watering: ~1 gal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Weekly or when soil is dry 6" down- Extra in heat/dry spells	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drought-only deep soak
Perennials (avg. 1-gal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Weeks 1–2: water daily- Weeks 3–4: every 3–4 days- After week 4: weekly/as needed if rainfall is lacking- Amount per watering: ~1 qt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Once weekly or more often in heat- Aim for 1" water total per week (rain + irrigation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- About 1" per week total- Infrequent, deeper watering encourages strong roots
Grass Seed & Sod	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Seed: keep evenly moist until seedlings fill in- Sod: water daily for 2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transition to deeper, less frequent watering once roots knit in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1" per week total (rain + irrigation)

Pro Tips

- Know your hose flow: Put your hose in a container of known volume and time how long it takes to fill. This tells you exactly how long to water each tree or shrub.
- Water deeply and slowly—avoid shallow sprinkling.
- Check soil moisture: 6–12" for trees/shrubs, 2–4" for perennials.
- Mulch 2–3" to hold moisture and protect young roots.
- Adjust for soil type: sandy soils = more frequent, clay soils = slower/less often.
- Container-grown trees dry faster than trees grown in the ground—monitor closely.