

## **Watering Instructions**

### **Please call with any questions!**

**We want your plants to succeed in your landscape and proper watering is key!**

It will take some time to learn your landscape's watering needs. Some plants need more water than others, and that can vary between the same type of plant based on where they are located. In hot, dry, windy weather you will need to increase the amount of watering.

There are a few signs to watch for when watering your landscape. First, use the dig and check method. Dig down 1-2" underneath the mulch and feel the soil. If the soil is wet, you don't need to water. You can also use a moisture meter to check if you need to water. Drooping or yellowing leaves can indicate either too much or too little water. If the leaves are crunchy, they are too dry. If they are limp and squishy, they are too wet. Double check the soil with the dig and check method before watering. Also keep in mind that the surrounding soil around the plant should also be moist to encourage root growth.

## **Watering Schedule**

**Only water when soil is dry 1-2" under the surface. Water slowly and deeply**

Newly installed plants have higher water needs because their root systems have not grown out of the potting soil or root ball area and into the surrounding soil. Water at the base of the plants with the hose at a slow trickle. Perennials and small shrubs require a few minutes of watering at a time, larger shrubs and trees can require 30 minutes to an hour of watering at a slow trickle.

First Day – Water slowly and deeply after planting. If NBN installs your plants, the crews give them their first watering.

Week 1 – Check daily

Week 2 – Check every 2 days

Week 3 – Check every 3 days

Rest of season – Check once a week until the temperatures drop and the ground begins to freeze (at least Thanksgiving)

Ongoing – Check your plants for watering needs the first two years after planting. If we experience extremely dry weather for an extended period of time you may need to supplement watering for plants installed within the last 3-5 years.

## **Watering Trees with a Water Bag**

The green water bag is an extremely helpful tool when watering newly planted trees. The bag is a bladder that can hold up to 20 gallons of water, which is typically the water needs for one week. Wrap the bag around the trunk of the tree and zip it up. The top of the bag splits apart for you to insert the hose. Fill the bag up with the hose, occasionally lifting it by the straps to help expand and fill the bottom of the bag. The bag will slowly drain out from small holes in the bottom. If the soil is dry it can drain in a couple hours. If the soil is already a little damp it could take a day or so before all of the water is absorbed. Do not fill the bag more than once a week unless it is a larger tree, or the weather conditions are extreme. A tree up to 3" caliper can be watered once a week. Trees larger than 3" will need watered twice a week, and may require a second bag. If the weather is extremely hot, windy and dry for extended periods of time you will need to fill the bag a second time per week. Use the dig and check method if you are unsure about filling the bag.

## **Watering Hints, Tips, & Tricks**

Watering by hand is a great way to learn your plants and appreciate your landscape.

Lawn sprinklers do not run long enough to thoroughly water trees and shrubs. A hose or water bag is the only way to water newly planted trees.

To see how much water your irrigation is providing, place a small dish or cup near the plant and measure how much water they receive. Plants need an inch of rainfall per week.

If you travel a lot, don't have a lot of time to dedicate to watering, or would like a way to make sure you don't forget – use a timer and soaker hose. The timer can be set up to water the plants a couple times a week for a period of time. Check the plants the first time you water to make sure the plants at the end of the line are getting enough water. Also check them occasionally to make sure the system is still running properly.

If you have mulch in your beds you may have to break up the crust to get the water through to the plants, or let it soak a little longer when watering.

Soil type can also affect your watering demands. After the first month you can expect:

Sandy Soil – at least twice a week.

Well-drained, loamy soil – once a week.

Heavy clay soil – Use dig and check method.