



North Branch Nursery, Inc.

Personalized Service, Rooted in Quality
www.NorthBranchNursery.com

Watering Instructions

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. Using 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.

Soil type can 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.

Quality Plants & Service Since 1982

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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.

Using your Watering Bag:

Your Watering Bag can be your best friend after a tree is first planted. It has the capability to seep 20 gallons water into the soil slowly, much like using a soaker hose or garden hose at a slow trickle the size of your pinky finger. As a general guide, the watering bag should only be used one to two times per week. Here are a few tips and tricks for using your watering bag.

1. Your watering bag has a zip closure. This allows for easy installation and removal of your bag. For trees 3.00" caliper and larger, two watering bags can be zipped together to seep the necessary water into the soil over the course of several hours.
2. Zip the watering bag(s) onto the tree's trunk as shown in figure 1-a, with the larger portion of the bag at the base of the tree.
3. You'll notice the smaller end has a slit at the top seam. This is not a defect. This hole will be where you fill your watering bag. Filling in the center hole where the tree trunk is will not fill the bag. Doing this will have water pour out immediately from the base.
4. Before filling your watering bag, check the soil for moisture. 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.
5. If your soil is dry and you need to water you can fill the watering bag by adding water into the slit at the top seam of the bag, as shown in figure 1-b. This will allow the water to seep slowly into the soil.

Storing Your Watering Bag:

When your watering bag is not in use in the cold winter months, you should store it in a dry place away from the elements. This will help prevent the bag from getting any splits or additional holes that will prevent it from holding water.



Figure 1-a



Figure 1-b