

Watering Tips and Principles

Saturating the entire root zone at the correct intervals is vital to the health of plants. Water meters may be helpful to determine moisture conditions.

1. Water requirements can change throughout the year. This means the volume and frequency of water needed can fluctuate.
2. Age and size of a plant, precipitation, temperatures, exposure, winds, and drainage are factors that contribute to plants' needs.
3. Drip irrigation systems can be an efficient means for watering and can be easily adjusted to meet plants' needs.
4. The correct quantity and type of drip emitters, as well as their placement are important considerations. For example; adjustable emitters can be suitable for trees.
5. Proper placement of emitters are out to the canopy edge.
6. New plantings may require more frequent watering. Also, the best times to water is in the morning hours – plants take in water during the day.
7. Tree and shrub wells, or berms help retain moisture and reduce run-off. Mulch periodically for long term soil conditioning.

Some General 'Rules of Thumb'

- Give supplemental water during extremely hot and dry conditions.
- Don't leave a hose on trickle or flood a young tree.
- For mature trees: water out to drip-line, or canopy edge.
- Deep watering is optimal for root growth and development.
- If you "hand" water, be consistent.
- Conserve water and be water conscious.

Overwatering:

- Though plants do indeed convert carbon-dioxide to oxygen, roots do a lot of work for the plant and need oxygen themselves.
- Over watering fills natural pockets in the soil, and the fibers that take in oxygen can become damaged.
- Allow gaps between watering so your roots can breathe.
- If there has been over watering, try Superthrive to encourage new growth.