

WATERING! HOW & WHEN?

First and foremost, plants suffer from both lack-there-of & excess moisture levels. This is a very delicate balance and ironically the signs of distress for either are the same. Should you notice your plant material with yellowing leaves (chlorosis) and/or wilting branches, this is a typical sign of either too little or too much water. In other words, this is a plant's means of saying I'm thirsty or I'm full! It's your responsibility to determine what your plant is saying since plants don't talk, yet! Simply, take your finger and let the sense of touch determine for you and create a ball by squeezing the soil. Dig a small hole next to the plant in question and feel the soil around the root zone depth (approximately 6-8" for small plants and 8-12" for trees). Correct the problem accordingly.

Controlling the amount of amount with an irrigation system can be a little hassle. A proper underground irrigation system has at least two different zones. One for plants and the other for lawn and never the two shall meet. Plants require deep watering with less frequency while lawns typically receive a deep watering with more frequency. If this problem has not already been addressed or corrected by us please contact our office immediately. Improper watering is the number one cause for the decline of plant material.

Let's avoid improper watering! So how much water is enough you may be asking. This answer lies in the soil surrounding the root zone of your plants (light or heavy), weather conditions (rainfall, wind and temperature) and the genetic make-up of your plant. A lot of factors determine the correct answer to this time-old question, How often and how much water? . Once again, we turn to your trusty finger to feel the soil and your hands to squeeze the soil to help give us some generalization. Please use the table below as a guideline:

Soil Feel	Squeezed Soil	Action
Too Wet	creates a ball with water dripping like a sponge	reduce watering schedule, create a better draining soil, or install plants that want Wet Feet
Moist	remains in a ball	leave it alone
Dry	stays loose or breaks apart	supplement mother-nature by adding water

When you choose to water, do so thoroughly and deeply. A minimum of 1" per square foot of soil once a week will establish a deep and healthy root system which will help to withstand environmental stresses like drought on newly transplanted trees. This can also be achieved using Treegators , an innovative slow release watering bag that can deliver 20 gallons of water over a 5-9 hour period. Contact our office for further details.

Alright, so now you're overwhelmed! Watering, is the single task that's vital to the longevity of your exterior living space. The first year after installation is the most critical. Helping mother-nature should be carried through to the second growing season during dry periods. Hopefully, we have stressed enough about the importance of you monitoring the moisture content of your plants, but if not, please go water your plants - or not depending.