GENERAL WATERING GUIDE

Proper watering is one of the most important factors in the establishment and long-term health of your landscape. Newly installed trees, shrubs, perennials, and turf require closer monitoring during the first growing season as root systems become established. Weather conditions, soil type, drainage, sunlight exposure, and irrigation coverage can all impact watering needs, so regular observation and seasonal adjustments are important.

LANDSCAPES WITH IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

An irrigation system is a helpful tool, but it is not a “set it and forget it” system. Irrigation controllers typically require seasonal adjustments based on rainfall, temperature, wind, and plant establishment. Newly installed landscaping may still require supplemental hand watering during periods of heat, drought, wind, or inconsistent irrigation coverage.

Areas near foundations, retaining walls, slopes, or full sun exposures may dry out more quickly and should be monitored closely.

Controllers set for sod establishment or seed germination will eventually need to be adjusted back to normal watering schedules. Continuing to run establishment watering schedules too long can lead to shallow rooting, disease pressure, or overwatering issues.

LANDSCAPES WITHOUT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Landscapes without irrigation systems require regular monitoring and consistent watering during the establishment period. Deep, slow watering is generally preferred over frequent shallow watering, as it encourages stronger root development and healthier plant growth.

A slow soaking at the root zone is more beneficial than quick surface watering. Newly planted trees and larger shrubs typically require less frequent but deeper watering than smaller shrubs, perennials, or annual plantings.

GENERAL WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Water early in the morning whenever possible
- Avoid frequent shallow watering
- Monitor soil moisture before increasing watering frequency
- Reduce watering during periods of consistent rainfall
- Increase monitoring during hot, dry, or windy weather
- Check newly installed landscaping regularly during the first growing season
- Keep mulch pulled slightly away from the base of trunks and stems
- Newly installed trees and shrubs may still require watering during extended dry periods in the winter. While plants use less water during dormancy, root systems can still dry out when moisture is limited. Water on days when temperatures are above freezing and the ground is not frozen.

SIGNS OF UNDERWATERING

- Wilting or drooping foliage
- Dry or crumbly soil
- Browning leaf edges or needle drop
- Dull or gray-green appearance
- Cracks in soil and/or visible soil separation from foundation

SIGNS OF OVERWATERING

- Yellowing foliage
- Mushy stems or crown rot
- Fungus or algae growth
- Persistently saturated soil
- Wilting despite wet soil conditions

IMPORTANT NOTES

Every property is different, and watering requirements will vary based on plant type, drainage, sun exposure, slope, weather conditions, and irrigation coverage. Overwatering can be just as harmful as underwatering, and watering schedules may need adjustments throughout the season as landscapes establish and weather patterns change.

If you have questions regarding irrigation settings, watering frequency, or plant health, please contact our team for assistance

