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How do I water my newly planted trees and shrubs?

There is not one correct method of watering. Remember that your new plant's roots are limited to the tiny container or rootball that you purchased it with. The plant has not yet developed the feeder roots of a mature tree that can "search" for water. One thing that you can count on is that all your newly planted trees and shrubs will **NEED** water. How much you water and how often will be completely dependent upon your soil type, size of plant, and Mother Nature. The first step is figuring out what kind of soil you have. There are three main types of soil particles; sand, silt, and clay. Sand of course drains really well, and you may find yourself watering a little more often. Clay on the other hand holds water really well and you may water your plants less often. On average, a newly planted tree or shrub should be watered **20 minutes to 1 hour every 3 to 4 days** on a slow trickle for small to large plants, respectively. Our seasons play a big part in watering as well. Plants will naturally take up more water during the hot summer months than the cooler fall months. Adjust your watering schedule accordingly.

These guidelines for watering are just that, guidelines. We realize that there are many factors that are involved here and these guidelines may be subject to change depending upon your specific conditions. Our nursery professionals are available at the store or by phone 7 days a week for further assistance with your new shrub or tree.

Always water plants for **long periods of time with a slow trickle of a hose** as opposed to short frequent bursts of water. Short frequent bursts encourage your trees and shrubs to grow a shallow root system which makes your tree more vulnerable in the long run to drought stress. **Long, deep and slow watering encourages a deep and wide spreading root system**, which is most beneficial to the plant. You can achieve this long deep soak of water with a hose placed right at the base of your tree or shrub. You also may find that soaker hoses are a simple and easy way to water as well. The tiny perforations in the soaker hose allow a slow drip of water to be released to a targeted area such as a newly planted tree or shrub. Using a sprinkler is not recommended for watering new trees or shrubs. Sprinklers broadcast water over a wide range of area, therefore not giving you the long, deep soak that plants need.

If your tree or shrub is in an area where a hose cannot reach we encourage you to talk to our nursery professionals and they can recommend other suggestions such as gator bags. If Mother Nature provides us with a long, steady rain (an inch or more) over the course of many hours you can skip **ONE** watering.