



Irrigation

Regularly watering shrubs, trees and lawn is important. However, with automatic irrigation so common over watering is also common. Seldom do you need to water more than three times a week even in hot weather.

Conventional irrigation usually needs to run about 15-25 minutes each watering cycle; drip systems about an hour. As the weather changes change the frequency rather than the length of time.

If you have a drip system remember it requires regular monitoring to ensure it is working correctly.

Fertilizing

Most shrubs and trees need to be fertilized two to three times in the spring and early summer and once in fall. Ask for our specialty guides for azalea, camellia and fruit trees. Formula 49 is a good general purpose fertilizer

A lawn should be fertilized four to six times a year. When you have weed control issues we carry several fertilizer plus weed control or weed prevention products.

Pruning

Young trees and shrubs need to be looked at occasionally to be sure the growth is going where you want it. Shrubs can be tipped back to keep them compact and well shaped. Usually this is all that is needed for the first few years.

Trees need to be shaped also. Because there are several styles of tree development you sometimes need to develop a central leader and some times you want a compact rounded head. Usually it is easy to tell: however, you can always ask us for help

Care of your new Garden

NEW SHRUBS AND TREES

The key issue is keeping the soil and root ball moist. Water daily the first few days to ensure the entire soil around the plant is moist so dry soil does not pull moisture out of the newly planted root ball. In warm weather check daily for a while but watering 2 to 3 times a week usually is enough. A rule of thumb is one gallon of water for a # one size plant and five for a #5 size and 15 for a #15. A moisture meter is helpful to confirm the moisture levels with new plantings.

With automatic irrigation systems it is easy to water too frequently. We recommend watering in the morning long enough to thoroughly moisten the soil. In most cases with a conventional system it is twenty to thirty minutes. If you water too frequently it can drive the oxygen out of the soil and many plants do poorly. As larger trees and shrubs become older, watering once a week can often be enough

NEW SOD LAWNS

Again the key issue is to keep the soil moist. Water deeply and regularly two to three times a day for the first week. With a conventional system this usually means 20 to 30 minutes. This gets the entire soil column under the sod moist so the dry soil deeper does not pull the moisture down. Here it is difficult to over water.

Over the next couple of weeks, and until the sod is rooting into the your natural soil, water a couple of times a day. Here, a short watering works, often only five to ten minutes because all we are doing is keep the soil that came with the sod moist. As the sod roots in to the soil cut the frequency back and increase the time to 20 to 30 minutes.

Because the soil under the sod is wet and soft keep off the lawn until you can step on it safely without leaving holes. Generally this is for a couple of weeks. When you can walk on the lawn, a walk behind mower can be used when the grass is about 3" tall. Mow at highest setting or about 2" tall. Do not water for 24 hours before mowing.

Start fertilizing in two to three months with Master Green Lawn Fertilizer.