

****Ludwig Bros., Inc****
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PLANT CARE: KEEPING THEM HEALTHY

Tips to maintaining new or transplanted plants, grasses, perennials, trees, and more!



NEWLY PLANTED SOD

New sod needs to be thoroughly watered right after it's laid. Pay special attention to edges and areas along walks and driveways as sod can dry out more quickly. If it's a large area, put some water on all "hard-to-reach spots" before going back to soak it. At least 1/2" of water should be applied to ALL sodded areas.

After initially soaking the sod, it will need to be watered a minimum 1-2 times per day or more depending on current weather conditions for the first 10-14 days. Hot, windy weather requires more water than cool, calm weather. Although natural rain is best, a minimum of 1/2" of rainfall is needed in order to be sufficient.

After about 2 weeks, sod should start to "root in". To test this, roll back a small piece. It should have some resistance & the presence of white roots will show underneath. Watering can be cut back to once a day, then every other day, etc., until sod keeps its green color.

***TIP: BE CAREFUL WALKING ON SOD/GRASS AREAS AFTER THOROUGHLY WATERING AS IT MAY BECOME TOO SOFT TO WALK ON.**

NEWLY SEEDED LAWNS

The key to successfully germinating grass seed is to keep it consistently moist until it can germinate. Different types of seed take different lengths of time to sprout. For example: Kentucky Bluegrass takes about 10-14 days. Ryegrass and Fescues can take 5-7 days when soil temperatures are above 60-65 degrees. In cooler weather, it will take longer.

To achieve proper moisture level, assuming the seed has been incorporated into the soil, water thoroughly the first time, then follow with light watering as often as necessary to keep it moist. Moisture levels can vary due to weather conditions. A hot, sunny location with windy conditions will require watering several times a day. Shady, protected areas may only need once-a-day watering.

After grass seed has completely germinated, watering should taper off in frequency. However, be more thorough until watering is done once a week.



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WATERING NEW SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, GRASSES AND TREES:

*WATERING TO TAKE ROOT FOR
LONG-LASTING ENJOYMENT*



NEWLY PLANTED SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, GRASSES:

Most of these plantings were grown in pots at nurseries where they've been watered daily. When planted in the ground, the root mass is still small and requires frequent watering until roots can penetrate the soil.

General Rule: the smaller the root ball (pot size), the more water it will need.

Annuals, perennials, and grasses will require more watering when starting out. Smaller shrubs will require less frequency BUT deeper watering, especially in hot, windy locations (therefore, 2 times daily). As plants begin to take root, less watering is needed (eventually to once a week). Rain is helpful but less than 1/2 inch of rain is not sufficient to adequately support the plants' watering needs.

Use Caution: Continuing to water too much for an extended period of time can cause plants to die also. Plant roots should not be in "standing" water.



WATERING NEW TREES:

Watering trees is different than watering smaller plants. Trees will have a larger root ball size of 18"-24" in width and depth. Targeting the root ball will be important to ensure adequate watering. One method is to lay a garden hose at the base of the tree, allowing the water to run at a slow rate (just above a dribble) for an hour or so *2-3 times for the first week, 1-2 times the second week, and then once weekly for remainder of the season.*

"Gator Bags" are also available to help water trees and usually available at local garden/hardware stores. The bags fasten to the base of the tree where they are then filled with 15-20 gallons of water. The water will slowly dispense to the tree's root ball where it's soaked up. This also allows water not to run off from the tree's base area.

We hope this information is useful for protecting and beautifying your new lawn & landscape. Feel free to contact our office at anytime for any further questions or information: (217) 356-7132, ext. 2.