

KEEPING THEM HEALTHY

PLANT CARE MANUAL

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NEWLY PLANTED SOD

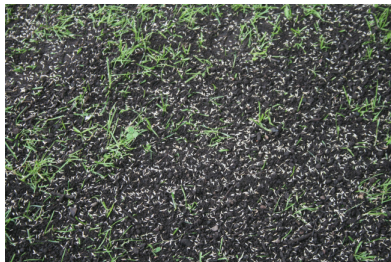
New sod needs to be thoroughly watered right after it has laid. Pay special attention to edges and areas along walks and driveways as they dry out quicker. If there is a large area, put some water on all areas before going back and soaking it. At least 1/2" of water should be applied to all areas.

After initially soaking the sod, it will need to be watered once or twice a day or more depending on weather conditions for the first 10-14 days. Hot windy weather requires more water than cool calm weather. Although natural rain is obviously the best, it must rain at least 1/4" to be sufficient.

After two weeks the sod should be starting to root in. If you try to roll a piece back it will resist and you can see new white roots underneath. At this point you can cut back on watering to once a day, then every other day, etc. until once a week keeps it green.



Tip: Be careful walking on grass after thoroughly watering as it may become too soft to walk on



Germinating seeds

NEWLY SEEDED LAWNS

The key to getting grass seed to germinate is to keep it consistently moist until it germinates. Different types of seed take different lengths of time to sprout. Generally speaking, Kentucky Bluegrass takes about 10-14 days, Ryes and Fescues 5-7 days when soil temperatures are above 60-65 degrees. In cooler weather, it will take longer.

To achieve the moisture level needed, assuming the seed has been incorporated into the soil, you should water thoroughly the first time and then follow with light watering as often as necessary to keep it moist. This can vary widely with conditions. A hot sunny location is a windy area needs to be watered several times a day, where as a shady protected area maybe just once a day.

After the seed has completely germinated watering should taper off in frequency but start to be more thorough until watering is done once a week.



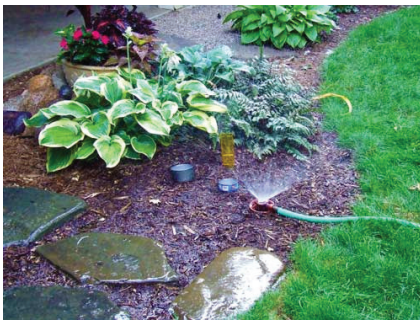
WATERING NEWLY PLANTED SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, AND GRASSES

Watering new plantings is vitally important to their survival. Most of these plants were grown in pots and at a nursery, where they were watered daily. When they are planted, the root mass is still small and requires frequent watering until the roots penetrate surrounding soil.

As a general rule - the smaller the original root mass (size of the pot) the more often it will need to be watered. Therefore shrubs, annuals, perennials, and grasses will normally require the most frequent watering. Smaller shrubs with lush growth will need a lot of water also and larger shrubs require less frequent but deeper watering. In the first week or two small plants will need daily watering and if they are in hot, windy locations perhaps 2 times daily. The only way to know for sure is to watch the plants for signs of wilting and to use your finger to check the moisture level directly around the plant.

CAUTION: Continuing to water too much for an extended period of time can cause the plants to die also. Plant roots need moisture but not standing water.

As the plants begin to take root, water less frequently until you are watering once a week. Rain is helpful but anything less than 1/2" is not sufficient to support the plant's water needs.



WATERING NEWLY PLANTED TREES

Trees are generally planted at larger sizes with root balls 18-24" wide and deep. Watering trees therefore is different than the smaller plants. A good method is to lay a garden hose at the base of the tree and let the water run at a very slow rate (just above a dribble) for an hour or so to be sure the water soaks in all the way to the depth of the root ball. This should be done 2-3 times the first week, then 1-2 times the second week, and then once a week for the remainder of the growing season. Trees are no longer routinely staked unless requested or in a very windy area. Stakes should be removed in the middle of the second year to avoid damaging the tree.

"Gator" bags are available to help you water your trees. These "bags" fasten to the base of the tree, you fill them with 15-20 gallons of water and the water is slowly dispensed to the plant so that it can soak in and not run off.

