



Watering your New Native Landscape

The initial establishment period takes about 1 month for perennials to establish their roots in their new home. It is important to keep the plants watered during this period, especially in the dry summer months. On average your new landscape will need 2 waterings per week. This can be provided from you or Mother Nature. A sprinkler system can be set up to water the plants for about 1 hour. Make sure all plants receive about 1" of rain each week. If you get a rainfall of 1" or more that will relieve you from having to provide any additional watering for the week.

After the initial establishment period (one month) continue to monitor your new plants. If they start wilting or turning yellow, you may need to supplement with another watering. New installations that occur in July and August may need more watering as these are typically our hottest and driest months of the year.



Watering with a Hose

For perennial plants, each plant should be watered for 30 seconds during each watering in the first month. Shrubs can be watered for 1-2 minute each, and trees can be watered for 3-5 minutes. After the first month, watering can decrease to once a week. It is best to use a hose with some form of nozzle on it to help limit soil disturbance from the large droplets. As mentioned earlier, if there is more than an inch of rain in the week, you may not have to water for that week.



Watering Trees and Shrubs

For the first 1-2 weeks after planting, trees and shrubs should get water every other day. For the next month, make sure they are getting watered every few days.

Trees and shrubs should be monitored for the majority of the growing season after planting. If there is a dry spell of seven days or more it is important to get out and water the shrubs. Watering of your trees and shrubs should continue for 3 months after the installation, or less if temperatures fall below 40 degrees such as for fall plantings.



Tree Gator Bags

These are bags that can be used to help assist with weekly tree watering. They have small holes at the bottom of them to slowly release water onto the root ball. The bag can be filled with water and then left on the tree until empty. This can be a great way to water trees if you struggle with remembering to check on them regularly. These can be found at your local hardware store.

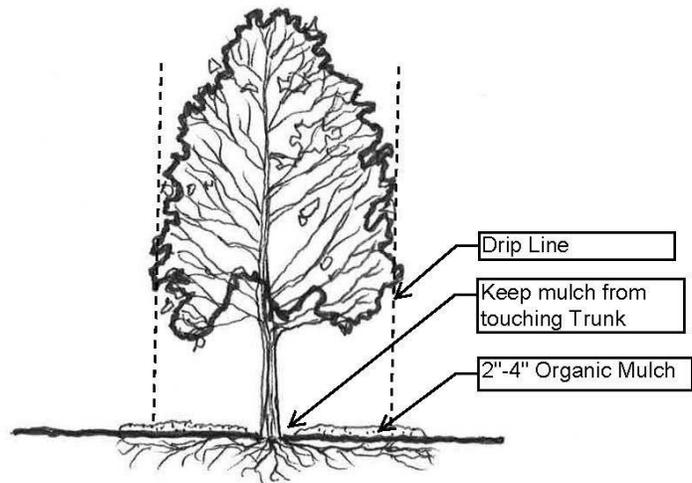


Mulching

Mulch is a valuable way to help plants conserve water and decreases the chance of evaporation of water from the soil. Mulch also overall increases soil health, which creates a healthy environment for the trees and shrubs to grow in. If your shrubs were freshly mulched with install, then you likely do not need to re-mulch the next year. We recommend mulching every other year. This allows the mulch to partially break down between applications preventing an impervious surface from forming. Other things that can have similar benefits to mulch is leaving the leaves in your garden beds in the fall, or moving leaves into the garden bed, and also allowing sticks to break down as well. This saves time and energy on fall clean up as well as providing a place for insects to overwinter!

Proper Tree Mulching

If you decide to re-mulch trees at home, there are a few important things to consider. First, the mulch should not touch the trunk of the tree or shrub. This holds moisture close to the trunk and can lead to root rot and decay. Along with this, make sure that the mulch isn't more than 4 inches deep, as this makes water filtration more difficult, and can possibly cause rot as well.



Proper Tree Mulching

Although the watering information may feel overwhelming, the most important part is to get outside and keep an eye on your landscape. Consistency is best when it comes to watering and keeping an eye on things helps you to identify when trees and shrubs are starting to look dry before it's too late. As always, if you have any questions and concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!