



Watering Guidelines for New Plantings

Newly installed plants will need to be “watered in” their first year so they can become established. Trees & shrubs will need to be watered individually *even if there is an irrigation system*. It is still possible to overwater as there are many additional factors that influence the watering needs of your plants, including weather & soil type. It’s best to regularly monitor the moisture in the soil by brushing a small amount of mulch away to feel the soil moisture beneath.

- Adjust watering routine according to weather, soil conditions, type, & size of plant. Heavy clays hold moisture longer than loose sandy soils, so be cautious not to overwater plants in clay soils. If you are unsure of what type of soil you have, ask us! We are happy to check.
- Avoid spraying entire plants as excess moisture sitting on the leaves promotes disease. Instead, directly water the plant at its base. The best time to water is in the morning.

Do not rely on irrigation systems to adequately water plants during establishment.
Use a hose to slowly soak the root area.

Spring

- Depending on rainfall, plants normally don’t need frequent watering in spring. However, if there are multiple weeks of dry weather, they will need monitoring.
 - Larger trees and shrubs can *usually* be watered 1-2 times a month.
 - Smaller shrubs & perennials will need water more often as the root system is smaller and can more easily dry out.
- Check the soil!**

Summer

- This is the most important time for watering new plantings. St. Louis has hot, dry summers!
- Check soil moisture levels approximately 3 times per week.
- Slowly soak root area to ensure deep watering, promoting a strong, healthy root system. Be sure not to wet the leaves before intense sunny days, as this can lead to leaf scorch.

Fall

- If it is a dry fall, the summer watering techniques should continue until the temperatures fall below 40° F.

Winter

Evergreen Trees & Shrubs

- Evergreens need water through the winter because they transpire through their leaves. Low humidity & strong winds increase the need for irrigation.
- Soak the root area once every 2-3 weeks if we receive no precipitation and temperatures rise above 40° F.
- Do not water before freezing temperatures, as this can lead to root damage.

Deciduous Trees & Shrubs

- Deciduous plants need less water during winter because they have no leaves. Lightly water new plants every 3 weeks if we receive no precipitation.

Watering Guidelines for a New Lawn

After your new lawn is installed, maintain it carefully for the first few weeks. In the absence of rain, your new lawn must be watered every day; more so if the weather is unusually hot and dry for the season. The watering requirement of plants increases dramatically as the temperature rises above 70 ° F. Each session of watering should be continued until the seedbed is thoroughly damp or the sod is wet through the soil beneath. You can check after watering by lifting a corner of a piece of sod and seeing if the undersides are thoroughly damp. You should begin mowing your new lawn as soon as the grass reaches a height of three inches, at which point you will want to cut about an inch off. Adjust your mower height to its highest level. Repeat this watering and mowing program until the lawn is mowed at least three times. By this time the roots should be established deeply enough

Tips for Newly Laid Sod

- Watering must start immediately after the sod is installed.
- Pay special attention to the corners and edges of newly sodded areas, as they tend to dry out much quicker.
- If a newly sodded area dries out it will most likely turn brown and may take up to two weeks with proper water to green back up.
- After the initial watering, water enough to keep the soil under the sod moist, but not muddy. Do not allow the soil underneath to dry out between watering's.
- In about two weeks the sod should have begun to root in the soil and watering can be lessened to a few times per week (dependent on time of year and weather conditions).

Tips for Newly Seeded Lawn

- Turf-type tall fescue can take 14-21 days to germinate. You may see other varieties of grasses in the seed mixture emerge before this time but keep up your initial watering regimen for four weeks to be safe.
- Each watering session should be continued until the seedbed is thoroughly damp to a depth of 6". If the temperatures are over 80°F, water throughout the day to keep the soil surface moist.
- Even a short dry period can kill germinating seed.

Warranty & Replacement Procedures

Lawn Systems shall warranty plant material for a period of one year after the date of installation. Lawn Systems is not responsible for any damage due to "acts of God," neglect, vandalism, abuse, or willful damage. A replacement will be provided the first time only; no multiple replacements will be made. **This warranty does not cover sod or seed.**

If you need a plant replaced, please contact our office. Lawn Systems will not replace any plant material that has been removed.

- A representative of Lawn Systems will inspect the plant and determine if replacement is necessary.
- Replacement is dependent upon stock availability. If an item is not in stock, please allow time for locating and ordering. If a particular item is not available, we will inquire if a comparable plant may be substituted.
- All replacements will be installed in one visit.