

The Gardener Nursery Tips for Plant Care

Watering

First Watering:

Once the plant or plants, is (are) properly tamped in water with no or very low pressure, a garden hose with no attachment works well. A bucket or pale will also work to flood the root ball with water.

All Other Watering:

When the plant needs water next, use a method of slow watering. A single plant can have a dripping garden hose left on the root ball all day. Treegator and donuts can be filled with the hose. They then take 5 to 6 hours to empty. In the heat of the summer, these should be filled twice in succession to really get the ground around the plant wet.

Best Practices:

Allow to Dry: Once watered correctly, allow the area to dry before watering again. Over-watering can be just as bad as under-watering. The drying also helps the plant root in more quickly.

Checking Moisture: Find the outer edge of the root ball. Using a flat head screw driver or a small tool, dig down about 4-5 inches. Pull up this soil and squeeze it. If the soil sticks together, there is enough moisture. If it does not, it is time to water.

Frequency: You may have already figured this out. It will vary with temperature, time of year, weather patterns, etc. The dormant season requires almost no watering, and the heat of growing season during a drought could require a frequency of twice a week.

Fertilizing

When and What:

We recommend fertilizing in the dormant season when the air and ground temperatures are low. Organic fertilizers (like Holly-tone) will both improve the soil and feed the plants. We recommend organic fertilizers for general broad use. Specific chemical fertilizers can also be used for more instant results in plant appearance. For example, boxwoods respond well to osmocote classic 18-6-12 controlled release fertilizer.

Where:

The First Winter: Feed around the drip line (all the way around).

After the First Year: Feed around the drip line and outward all the way around the tree.