



Pumpkin Brook Organic Gardening, Inc.

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☞ SKILLED GARDENING AND MAINTENANCE ☞ ORGANICALLY GROWN PLANTS AND SEEDS ☞ FULLY INSURED ☞
☞ NOFA ACCREDITED ORGANIC LAND CARE PROFESSIONALS ☞

Watering Tips for Summer

In general, it is best to water early (before 11 am) or late (after 4 pm) in the day to prevent rapid evaporation during the hottest period of the day. Plants are better equipped to take up water at these cooler time periods. Avoid watering after dark so that foliage can dry off, thus preventing the spread of fungal diseases. It is always important to water deeply into the root ball, regardless of the plant's size. Quickly wetting down the plant with a hose is of no use.

Trees and Shrubs:

As temperatures increase, evaporation rates are higher. You will therefore need to water more frequently. Follow this plan for newly planted material:

Temperature

Above 90 degrees

Above 80 degrees

Above 70 degrees

Above 60 degrees

50-60 degrees

Treatment

Once per day

Once every other day

Once every third day

Once per week

When needed (i.e. if no rain for 5 days)

The plant should be watered with a 1/2" of water, at a distance of twice the tree/shrub's height in all directions, with a sprinkler over the entire area. In order to get a 1/2" of water, the approximate time for low-pressure 1/2" garden hoses is a half-hour.

Soaker hoses should be set to a summer watering schedule, and run for 2-3 hours at the frequency/temperature level listed above.

For mature woody plants, when temperatures are above 80 degrees for more than four consecutive days, implement the above plan. In lieu of sprinklers or soaker hoses, a spike waterer can be attached to a garden hose and left to run for 20-30 minutes per large tree or shrub.

Perennials

Check the plants twice weekly and water if they appear wilted or if the soil is dry. Use of a watering wand is helpful to thoroughly wet the entire area surrounding the plant. Avoid wetting foliage of plants such as phlox, peony and rose in order to prevent spread of fungal diseases.

Annuals and Vegetables

These plants are the neediest in terms of water, requiring at least an inch of water per week to thrive. It is best to water deeply two to three times per week rather than shallowly on a daily basis. Soaker hoses, sprinklers, watering cans, or wands may be used. Water as needed through final harvest and/or frost. Avoid overhead watering for anything prone to mildew such as squash.