



Watering Guide for Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

To ensure that your newly planted evergreen tree or shrub thrives, it is very important to follow these watering instructions.

Evergreens do not grow well in soggy conditions. They are grown in pots or with burlapped root balls that have well drained soil and should be planted in drier locations. If you don't have a drier location, it may be necessary to create a raised area for planting.

Below are the main points for watering your evergreen tree or shrub, but remember to consider these items as well: exposure to sun/wind, soil drainage and weather.

- 1) Water evergreen trees regularly during the first year or two after planting. If we have an unusual dry spell in the 3rd or 4th year, continue to water. Depending on the size of the plant and its location, 1- 3 inches of water every week is necessary. If you get rain, adjust accordingly. Even after a rain a lot of the rain water will not get to an evergreen's roots because the branched canopy acts like an umbrella. Once the evergreen roots into the surrounding soil past the drip line of the plant, then the tree is able to take more rain water. This will not happen for about 3 years.
- 2) Lawn irrigation is usually not sufficient for newly planted trees. Watering deeply 1 to 3 times a week is better than shallow watering more frequently. You want to make sure that the entire root ball or container area is wet
- 3) Adjust your watering according to the seasonal weather. Spring is usually cool and rainy, so watering may only be needed once per week. As temperatures increase in the summer and soil dries out, you'll increase the frequency and duration of watering.
- 4) We recommend watering evergreen trees with drip irrigation, a soaker hose or garden hose at ground level versus overhead irrigation from a sprinkler.
- 5) Avoid watering past the drip line. Place the hose so that the water is directed under the foliage, but NOT directly on the trunk.
- 6) Irrigate evergreen trees thoroughly before the first freeze, so roots remain hydrated during the winter. Dry, frozen roots can cause winter burn.
- 7) Use a moisture meter to check soil moisture levels around the base in multiple spots under the tree. Pay attention to soil drainage as well. Different locations in the same yard will drain differently.
- 8) Due to clay soil in our region, consider planting evergreens slightly raised. Soggy areas can cause roots to rot. The smaller root system is not adequate to take up enough moisture when weather gets dry and hot, thus the tree will suffer.
- 9) Lastly, if anything looks unusual or you have any concerns, bring in a picture or call Grandma's Gardens for guidance. **We're here to help you grow! 937-885-2740**