

HYANNIS COUNTRY GARDEN

Watering and Care Instructions for Your New Plantings

- The most important thing you can do for newly installed plants is to water them regularly but not too often. Do not depend on automatic irrigation systems to water newly installed plants: most systems water too briefly to soak the entire root-ball of shrubs and trees.
- Do not hand water. Shrubs and trees have a root system the size of the ball or pot. In order to keep the roots and the surrounding area moist you should use a separate sprinkler or soaker hose that covers the area from the trunk or stem to at least a foot beyond the drip-line of the plant.
- In cooler weather turn on your sprinkler or soaker hose for at least an hour every 6 days. In hot, sunny weather do this twice a week. Water deeply in this manner for the first three months. After that water deeply once a week for the rest of the growing season. Note that some sprinklers deliver more water than others; if the soil around your plant remains moist for a week you can cut back on the frequency of watering.
- Taller, top-heavy trees might need to be staked for the first season, especially if they are in a windy location. Such supports should not be too tight and limit all movement of the trunk but should allow the plant to sway slightly. Be sure to remove all staking after the first year.
- Broadleaf evergreens can be protected over their first winter with an application of Wilt-pruf in October. Use according to directions.
- It's natural for plants that were in ball-and-burlap form to drop some of their foliage the first year. It's also normal for such plants to take two to four years to recover from having their roots cut. Should you have concerns about your plants, however, please contact us as soon as possible.