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DURANGO NURSERY & SUPPLY

271 Kay Cee Lane, Durango CO

[www.durangonursery.com](http://www.durangonursery.com)

970-259-8800



## WATERING ESSENTIALS

### Factors

Air quality, precipitation, soil moisture, and temperature fluctuations are factors that impact your garden's growth, especially in fall and winter in Colorado. Plants can suffer damages if they do not receive adequate water in response to these factors, particularly if they have been recently planted. Decrease watering to account for natural precipitation.

### New Plantings

Newly planted trees, shrubs, perennials, and lawns require more water to get established. In order to avoid shock in your fresh plantings, provide mulch to assist with water retention and use slow releasing fertilizer or wait for around two weeks before fertilizing at a full rate.

### Trees

Trees obtain water best when water is allowed to soak into soil slowly until it reaches a 1 foot depth. This encourages roots to dig deeper to find water. Trees that do not get adequate deep watering are more likely to damage pipes and run off areas.

### Shrubs, Forbs, and Lawns

Shrubs, forbs, and lawns like gentle top watering. Saturate the surrounding area of these plants with a hose or sprinkler anywhere from 5 to 20 minutes, depending on the type of plant and its environment.

### Woody Plants

Woody plants with shallow root systems may require additional water, particularly during extended dry periods. Examples include Birches, Maples, Alders, Dogwoods, Willows, Ashes, Spruces, Arborvitaes, Yews, Boxwoods, and Euonymous.

### Established Plants

Established plants have a root spread equal or greater than the height of the plant. Apply water to the most critical part of the root zone using drip systems or occasionally apply a sprinkler to the surrounding area to allow the entire root ball or spread to access water.

### Winter

If there is little to no snow coverage, plants will need to be watered throughout the winter. Frequency of watering decreases during plant dormancy, so it is usually recommended to water around every major holiday, or about once per month.



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Plant Types	Establishment Period after Planting	General Tips	April-September H <sub>2</sub> O	October-March H <sub>2</sub> O	Example
General Plantings	At least 2 weeks	Water Consistently, allowing to dry out slightly between. Apply Mulch, wait to fertilize heavily.	Water in early morning before sun comes up. If rainfall is insufficient to filter deep into soil, provide additional water after rainstorm.	Water only when air and soil temperatures are 40°F without snow cover 1-2x per month.	Water well after planting, observe how quickly the area dries out, look into any special requirements for that particular plant and develop a schedule to suit you and the plant's needs.
Trees, Evergreens, and Large Shrubs	1 year per inch caliper (trunk diameter)  (2" trunk takes 2 years)	Deeply water: Slowly soak to 8-12" below soil surface.  For <b>Evergreens</b> , let soil dry out a bit between waterings.  Shallow rooted species (see <b>Woody Plants</b> ) appreciate gentle top watering as well.	<u>First 6-8 weeks:</u> water 1x/week, allowing water to saturate into ground or keep hose on trickle for ~30 mins. In hot temps or windy areas, water 2x/week.  <u>After 8 weeks:</u> water 1x or 2x per month by filling up mulch well twice, or keeping hose on trickle for ~1hr.	<u>No Snow Cover:</u> Water 1x/month at 10 gal/inch caliper (trunk diameter), up to 18 gallons  <u>Unestablished Plants w/ No Snow:</u> 2x/month at 5 gallons	A 2 inch tree will require consistent watering for 2 years to become established and on years with dry winters will require 20 gallons of water monthly until its trunk grows.
Small Shrubs, Perennials, and Grasses	1 month to 1 year	Gentle Top Watering	<u>First 3-4 weeks:</u> Water 2-3x/week gently from above (watering wand or hose nozzle) for 2-3 minutes until area is saturated, or more frequently when 85°F and higher	5 gal/month for larger plants or enough water to saturate the area surrounding the plant at a 0.5-2" depth	A 5 gal Karl Foerster will require regular watering when planted and during hot months, but needs less attention during monsoons & winter
Lawns	1-2 Months  Do Not expose grass to traffic during first weeks.	Gentle Top Watering	After seeding or sodding, make sure soil stays moist, may require multiple waterings per day. Once long enough to cut it is established, and can be watered less frequently.	Watering 1x/month to moisturize top soil can help avoid root rot or pest issues when summer returns	If fall seeding before winter moisture, do not let seed dry out in lack of snow. Once established, sprinkle for ~20minutes 1-3x/week.