

This watering guide is meant to be a helpful little reminder of how you should care for your newly planted landscape. We hope that you find it usefull.

Watering is the most important aspect of proper plant care. Without water all things die. Because of this it is important to become familiar with your plant's water needs. Incorporate extra waterings during dry spells and droughts. This will help to lower stress on the plant and enable it to be healthy at the end of these dry periods. **Most plant deaths are caused by improper watering.**

Please note the following:

1 inch of rain

is equal to

30 minutes of a slow running hose

is equal to

3-5 minutes of a full running hose

is equal to

5-10 gallons

is equal to

30 minutes of most sprinklers

Over-watering

This can be as bad as not watering adequately and can result in the same symptoms. Check the soil moisture with finger, if in doubt. Soils in housing develoments are often very compacted due to heavy macines driving over the dirt during construction. Often times this soil does not drain properly. Improper drainage can result in the roots becoming rotted and eventually the plant will die.



Kilgore Landscaping
234 Zartman Mill Road
Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-0771

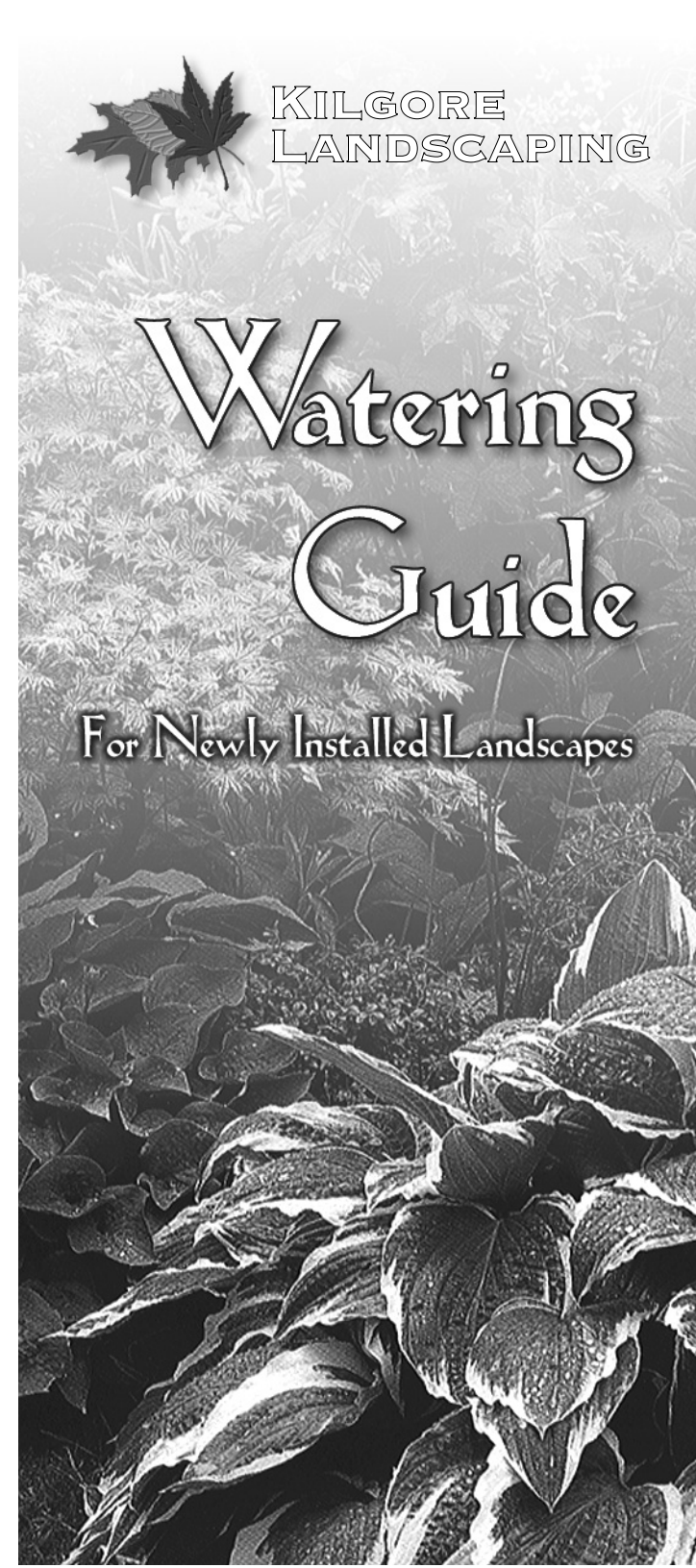
© 1999 Kilgore Landscaping



KILGORE
LANDSCAPING

Watering Guide

For Newly Installed Landscapes



A Few Things to Consider:

Potted vs Root Balled

Potted plants and root balled plants (plants that have been dug from a field) have different water requirements. Potted plants usually are planted in soil mixes that tend to dry out much faster than the soil found in root balled plants. Because of this, potted plants will need to be watered more frequently than root balled plants. Once established in the soil around them, both will have the same water requirements.

Soil should be checked with your finger at the base of the plant and other areas around it, to determine if the plant needs water.

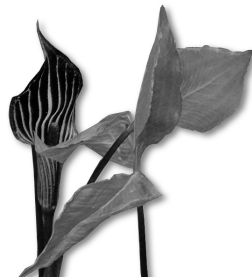
When watering from a hose, water flow should always be broken with your finger or thumb, or with a sprinkling wand.

Do not spray water forcefully onto root area of the plant, this will cause erosion to occur.

Watering properly takes time, understanding, and interest, but it results in quickly adapted plantings and healthy long-lived landscapes.

Ground Covers:

All **Ground Covers** - Ground covers must be thoroughly watered upon installation, and again each day for two days following the installation. Each watering should continue until the water puddles. This ensures that the soil and water has been evenly distributed around the roots of each plant. If installed in the spring or the fall, watering twice a week for several weeks will enable the ground cover to establish itself in the existing soil. Summer plantings of ground cover may need daily waterings to survive the evaporation from sun and wind.



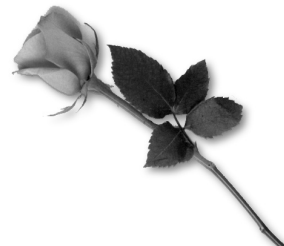
Shubbery:

Most Shrubs - Initial watering upon installation and a second watering (5 gallons) the next day should saturate the soil around the roots properly. Each shrub should be watered twice a week for the first two weeks and then once the third week and once again the fourth week. This should establish most shrubs thoroughly. If summer installation is performed, water shrubs three times a week for the first week and twice a week for the next three weeks. If weather conditions are hot and dry, water each shrub once a week for the next four weeks to establish roots properly.

Rhododendrons & Azaleas - These plants do not like their roots to stay wet. Late day waterings may cause root diseases that will kill these plants very rapidly. The above watering schedule may be followed for these plants, but late evening waterings should be avoided. Especially in soils that are high in clay content or are compacted. Soil around these plants should be given a chance drain before dark.

Trees:

All **Trees** - Installed trees should be watered with ten gallons of water immediately following installation. Five to ten gallons of water should be given on the next day. If run off occurs, give the water in portions, or use a slow running hose for twenty to thirty minutes. In the spring and fall, waterings of five to ten gallons should be made once every week for four weeks following planting. Summer plantings may require a watering of five to ten gallons once a day for the first three days and two months of weekly waterings if hot dry conditions prevail. Syringing leaves, branches, and trunks will help to keep the tree from wilting on hot afternoons. Years with dry autumns require weekly waterings the month before leaf drop to help in root storage over the winter.



Lawns:

Newly Seeded Lawns - Once a newly seeded lawn is rained upon or watered, the seed becomes activated and must be treated as a growing plant. It should be watered every day until the water puddles within the watered area. This is usually a minimum of 30 minutes with a sprinkler. The faster the seed is germinated and develops roots, the less chance there is for erosion to occur. This will also help the lawn to come in thicker and fuller.

Sodded Lawns - Lawns newly laid with sod must be watered immediately and not allowed to totally dry out. Waterings once or twice daily are necessary to keep the rooted sod mat moist. The roots must remain moist in order to stay active and penetrate into the existing soil below. Sod burns quickly on a sunny day and may need mid day waterings to keep this from happening. Water should puddle before irrigation is complete. Sod rarely dies from overwatering.

Perennials

All **Perennials** - This division of plants has very diverse needs for water. Generally speaking, initial waterings should be once a day for the first three days. This is a good rule to follow after installation and will help to establish the soil properly around the plants. Waterings once or twice a week should follow for several weeks, depending on the requirements of each particular perennial. While some plants prefer the soil to dry out somewhat for root development, others will not tolerate dry conditions. If you notice your plants are wilting soon after installation, they should be watered immediately. Sticking your finger into the soil around the base of the plant should give you a good idea of how much moisture of the plants roots are receiving.