



BASIC GUIDE TO WATERING

85% of plant failure is a direct result of poor watering. When it comes to watering, keep the following in mind.

- 1) Water deeply. Put the water in the ground, not in the air. If you water too shallow or too lightly, you will encourage shallow root growth, and cause plants to wilt easily.
- 2) Water in the early morning or no later than two hours before sunset for best results. Watering in the late evening when foliage cannot dry encourages diseases on many plants - especially roses, phlox, bee balm, and spirea.
- 3) Watering should be consistent so that soil is evenly moist. It is time to water when the top inch or two of soil is dry and no rain is predicted.
- 4) After watering, the top 5"- 6" of soil should be moist to encourage deep root growth.
- 5) Use a hose, drip or trickle irrigation to direct the flow of water to the base of the plant without wetting the foliage. Do not use a lawn sprinkler!
- 6) Mulch conserves water. Add 2" - 2.5" of mulch to slow down water loss. Make sure the mulch is not touching the trunk or crown of the plant - ideally, keep about 3" away. Create a basin around the plant with the mulch.
- 7) Water more frequently during times of drought. Sandy and heavy clay soils shed water quickly and need more frequent watering.
- 8) Severe dry weather conditions can cause plants to wilt and drop leaves. But as soon as they are watered, they can make a remarkable recovery. On deciduous shrubs, strip wilted or dry leaves to aid recovery. A rich organic soil will help to retain moisture in the ground. Using Bumper Crop or Leaf-gro and mixing it 50/50 with original soil is ideal. Root Stimulator should be used once each month during the growing season to reduce stress and improve root development.

A well watered and mulched plant will be less stressed during times of infrequent rain. Following these simple guidelines will make your garden a success.