

# Planting and Watering Your Trees and Shrubs

Make sure you water your tree or shrub right after planting.



The first year your plant is installed on your property is the most critical time to rebuild the root system.

- Plants require less water when it is cool outdoors, and more when it is hot and windy. Check the soil moisture at a 2" depth around to see whether or not your plant needs water.
- Excessive watering can deprive the roots of oxygen and drown the roots, be sure to follow the watering schedule.

## How Often You Should Water

### B&B Trees and Shrubs

### Hot Weather

Every 5-7 days

### Container Trees/Shrubs

2-3 times a week

### Cool Weather

Every 14 days

Every 5-10 days

**Remember to detach any nozzle or sprinkler from the hose, and water at the soil level with the flow of a pencil size stream.**

• **TREES:** Water at the base of the trunk for **30** minutes at a slow trickle.

**SHRUBS:** Water heavily at the base of the plant material. While the original target absorbs the initial watering, water adjacent plants and then return to resoak the first plant. Repeat this process 3-4 times depending on size and water sensitivity of the material. Use this technique to water all container plants, and in ground shrubs, perennials, herbs, and veggies.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How big should I dig the Hole?

- Dig the hole for your plant so that it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as wide as the container.
- If desired, amend the soil with 25% compost or peat moss. Fill the hole with dirt around the root ball till the new soil is level with the ground.
- For B&B trees use the same measurement, but make sure that the top of the ball is 1-2 inches above the ground level due to Central Ohio's clay heavy soil.

### Should I pull the roots apart for pot-grown plants?

Yes! The roots on plants grown in a container grow in a circular pattern on the outside of the soil clump. Gently loosen all of the roots before planting. This applies to trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals.

### Should I leave the wire basket/rope/burlap on the tree?

Yes! The basket/rope helps hold the root ball together and it maintains good soil/root contact. Keep the burlap on as well, it will decompose as the roots break through. Feel free to slice the burlap on the top and the sides to accelerate the ability of the root ball to absorb water.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask an Oakland Nursery associate.

