



GRAF'S GUIDE TO Watering Outdoor Plants

When we experience hot summer temperatures OR you are getting your landscape plants established, we must be thoughtful in our approach to watering.

Here are our favorite tips and tricks!

WATERING HANGING BASKETS:

Check daily when we are experiencing high summer temperatures. For hanging baskets, the best way to check them is to pick them up to see if they are heavy or light.

- If your baskets are heavy, they most likely have wet soil. They do not need watered.
- Fuchsia, New Guinea Impatiens and SunPatiens hanging baskets: If these plants are wilted, check to see if they need water. Sometimes these plants wilt due to high temperatures, not lack of water. Once we have cooler temperatures, they will bounce back easily and nicely.
- If your hanging baskets are light in weight, water them thoroughly until water rushes out the bottom and then tip to drain the saucer.
- After watering, lift your basket to check the weight again.
- If they are heavy, you did the job, and they were watered thoroughly.
- If they are not, you need to water them again. Often when the soil is very dry, the water will flush through and will not be absorbed by the soil.

Tomato Plant



Calibrachoa



Hydrangea



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to learn more.



Watering Tips & Tricks

WATERING CONTAINER GARDENS:

- Feel the soil with your fingers to check for moisture. Water thoroughly when your plants need it.
- If it rains, check them anyways to be sure they are moist. Sometimes the plant's leaves form a canopy over the soil and the rain will not be absorbed.

If you are watering frequently, the plants will require more nutrients so keep up with your applications of *Miracle Gro* or *Miracle Gro Bloom Booster*. This will keep your plants looking fresh and healthy.

WATERING YOUR LANDSCAPE:

It is important observe your plants during warm temperatures to make sure your plants are receiving enough water. It is important to note that even though we may receive hard rain, the water does not always reach the plant's roots because of water runoff.

Deep Root Watering Method

- Be sure to soak the root ball of newly transplanted shrubs, trees, and perennials by putting your hose near the base of the plant and letting it run slowly for a period of time
- Water approximately 10 minutes with your hose on a low pressure or soaking.
- If you have a higher water pressure or a smaller shrub (such as a one gallon pot size) then adjust and water less.
- If you deep root water, then you should only water a 1-2 times per week, but not everyday.

WATERING TOMATOES + OTHER VEGETABLES:

- It is best to keep vegetable plants evenly moist, especially tomatoes. Tomato plants that experience a great fluctuation in dry and wet conditions are prone to blossom end rot. Avoid this by keeping plants evenly moist. This allows the plant to absorb calcium and other nutrients efficiently so tomatoes ripen unharmed.
- Water your raised garden beds thoroughly and well. A light sprinkle will not penetrate dry soil. If using a hose, water each plant slowly on a medium to light nozzle adjustment.
- The more water that is applied to the soil, the more nutrients are flushed away. It is important that you continue to fertilize your vegetable plants as the summer progresses. It will help your plants growth and ultimately increase your plant's fruit production.