



## TREE & SHRUB MAINTENANCE

**\*\*WATERING:** *Watering is the MOST important thing you can do to help your plants thrive!*

1. Trees should be watered approximately 5 gal per inch caliper of the tree, each week for the first year to help the tree establish. Example (2" caliper tree would receive approximately 10 gal per week)
2. Shrubs should receive approximately 1 gal of water per size of the container from which they came or 1.5 gallons per foot if balled and burlapped. This should be done 2-3 times each week for the first two weeks then once each week thereafter for the first year. Example (3 gal azalea, should receive 3 gallons of water each watering or a 4-5' viburnum should receive 6 gallons each watering.)
3. Perennials need to be monitored daily. Most perennials are in one-gallon containers and they tend to dry out very quickly in warmer weather. You are encouraged to check the moisture content of the container before and after each watering. Perennials will require 1-2 gallons per week; however this may not be able to be applied all at one time. It is most likely that they will require water daily for the first week or two and then twice a week for the next two weeks, then once a week until plants seem established. Note: Most perennials die from either too much water or too little water. This is why it is so important to check the soil and monitor the moisture.
4. Transplanted material should follow the same guidelines as above: 5 gal. per caliper inch for trees and 1.5 gallons per foot for shrubs per week. Note: you are encouraged to always check the root ball by hand to assure that this is enough water.
5. It is very important that this watering is done evenly over the entire root ball.
6. Hand watering is most preferred to assure even watering.
7. Weekly Watering should generally take place from May-December
8. You are encouraged to always check the moisture in the root ball of the plant. This is the best way to know if your plant is getting too much or too little water.
9. During the winter months, trees and shrubs should require less water. However if less than 2" of rain per month occurs, watering will be essential. You should check your plant material to assure it has adequate moisture.

**FERTILIZING:** We recommend fertilizing in early March using either an organic fertilizer or a commercial fertilizer with equal parts of Nitrogen, Phosphorous, & Potassium. As a general rule apply one handful of fertilizer per caliper inch (every 2' in height for shrubs)

**DISEASE & PEST CONTROL:** Transplanting causes stress to trees and shrubs, pests and diseases typically target plants under stress: therefore, we strongly recommend a preventative spray program during the first couple of years. We will be happy to refer you to a certified pesticide applicator.

**STAKING:** Trees larger than 2" caliper are often staked to help prevent them from blowing over in a windstorm: however it is extremely important that the strapping is removed after the first year so that it won't girdle the trunk of the tree.