

Koskey's Turf Management Watering Guidelines

As your professional landscape contractor, you can count on us to ensure the plant material, turf grass, and installation methods are the highest quality you expect. In turn, we must count on you to properly water your new installations. It's important that we function as a team to ensure success. The following information is only a guideline. Various soil types, weather conditions, sun or shade, along with using common sense may alter watering requirements.

New Plants

- Until your plants have become well established, it will be necessary to provide supplementary irrigation, usually a deep soaking once per week.
- As a rough guide, use 1 gallon of water for each small plant. Use 4 gallons for each large plant. Remember to water slowly near the base of each plant.
- To determine how much moisture is available to the plant, you can cut into the soil with a shovel or trowel, and check below the top 4 inches of soil. It is possible for the surrounding soil to be wet with the rootball is not! Check it by poking your finger into the rootball area.
- Drip irrigation is another method of watering, such as a "porous" type of soaker hose surrounding your plants.

Additional Plant Water Tips

- Although 1 inch of rainfall a week is often enough, do not depend on rainfall alone. It is essential to check the available moisture at the rootball of each plant.
- A light sprinkling can do more harm than good.
- Be careful not to over water your plants either, because they cannot survive sitting in water for extended periods of time, also known as "wet feet."

New Lawns

- Newly seeded areas should be watered lightly at frequent intervals. The seed must be kept moist, not saturated, during this initial growth period. This means that during, hot, windy days, four or five applications of water per day might be necessary.
- The first 10 days to two weeks is especially critical. If young seedlings are allowed to dry out, they may die.
- After about two weeks, root development should be adequate to slowly reduce watering frequency. About one month after seeding, water the same as an established turf.
- Newly sodded areas should be watered much like established turf, except more frequently.

Established Lawn Water Tips

When to Water

Ideally, early morning is the best time to water. The wind is usually calm and the temperature is low, so less water is lost to evaporation. The worst time to water is late evening, because the grass may stay wet all night, making it more susceptible to disease. During the hot afternoon, evaporation rates are the highest.

How Much to Water

When the lawn needs water, enough should be applied to wet the soil to a depth of four to six inches. Apply deeper, less frequent watering to achieve the desired wetting depth. If water application rates are too light or frequent, grass plants may become weak and shallow rooted, making them more susceptible to stress injury. A general rule of thumb, which can vary according to the soil types, is to apply one inch of water to the turf areas per week. A rain gauge or simply a can set out in the area to be watered will help in determining the necessary amount of moisture.