

# 3 TIPS FOR PERFECT WATERING

*When it comes to maintaining your landscape, watering seems like a simple enough task. Unfortunately, we often encounter landscape problems that began with improper watering techniques.*

In order to help improve your landscape watering, we want to share a few tips on proper watering techniques. Proper watering allows for healthy plants that produce plenty of flowers or fruit, and are more resistant to disease and insects.

## 1. Knowing when to water

Knowing when to water is important. For newly planted material, you'll want to water immediately after planting, and frequently thereafter. The first year or two is critical for root growth, and hot or dry spells can hamper development. The best thing to do is to stick your finger in the soil just a few inches at the base and see if it is dry. If the soil feels wet, no watering is needed.



## 2. How much to water

Ideally you can set up some sort of drip irrigation system or soaker hose you can use to evenly and thoroughly water your landscape material. When you water, you'll need to water slowly to allow the water to soak 6-12 inches into the soil. The denser your soil, the longer this will take. Mulch helps plants retain moisture, as it reduces runoff and slows evaporation, so make sure your plantings have this extra protection as well. Our most helpful advice is to water **less frequently, but more at one time**. This type of thorough, deep watering ensures that the root zone gets what it needs.



## 3 Cut back watering once your material is established

Once your trees and shrubs have been properly watered and the root structure has had time to take hold over the first few years, they will be best equipped to handle whatever Mother Nature throws their way.



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An additional thought to keep in mind is this: an area that is generally too wet or dry can still have material planted in it. The trick is to find trees or shrubs that prefer those types of soils. If you need recommendations for a spot like this, or would prefer to leave your landscape maintenance projects to the experts, give Hively a call at 717-292-5696 and we'll be happy to help!

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