



Landscape Watering Guidelines

The costs of water maintenance, plant loss and replacement, and decreased property values are all financial impacts on homeowners. Recent local studies show that many landscapes are over-watered as much as 400 percent.

Overwatering encourages excessive growth diseases and other maintenance problems. Deep infrequent watering encourages strong healthy root systems that can better tolerate intense heat and periods of drought.

Effective irrigation system design, installation and maintenance are important. Sprinklers should serve only the required turf areas and not spray on buildings, fences or non-landscaped areas. Excess water on sidewalks, pavement and block walls causes damage, increases liability and wastes water. Watering should be done before sunrise to reduce evaporation losses. Turf areas, planters, trees and shrubs should be watered separately to meet varying water needs. Always irrigate the entire depth and width of the root zone regardless of the time of year. Automatic timers and moisture sensors make it easier to manage irrigations. Once or twice a year, water twice as long to leach out salts and buildup in our soils.

Landscape Watering Guidelines						
		Seasonal Frequency - Days Between Waterings				
		Spring Mar - May	Summer May - Oct	Fall Oct - Dec	Winter Dec - Mar	Water This Deeply
Trees	Desert Adapted	14 - 30 days	7 - 21 days	14 - 30 days	30 - 60 days	24" - 36"
	High Water Use	7 - 12 days	7 - 10 days	7 - 12 days	14 - 30 days	24" - 36"
Shrubs	Desert Adapted	14 - 30 days	7 - 21 days	14 - 30 days	30 - 45 days	18" - 24"
	High Water Use	7 - 10 days	5 - 7 days	7 - 10 days	10 - 14 days	18" - 24"
Groundcovers and Vines	Desert Adapted	14 - 30 days	7 - 21 days	14 - 30 days	21 - 45 days	8" - 12"
	High Water Use	7 - 10 days	2 - 5 days	7 - 10 days	10 - 14 days	8" - 12"
Cacti and Succulents		21 - 45 days	14 - 30 days	21 - 45 days	If needed	8" - 12"
Annuals		3 - 7 days	2 - 5 days	3 - 7 days	5 - 10 days	8" - 12"
Warm Season Grass (Bermuda, etc)		4 - 14 days	3 - 6 days	6 - 21 days	15 - 30 days	6" - 10"
Cool Season Grass (Rye, Fescue)		3 - 7 days	None	3 - 10 days	7 - 14 days	6" - 10"
<p>These guidelines are for established plants (1 year for shrubs, 3 years for trees). Additional water is needed for new plantings or unusually hot or dry weather. Less water is needed during cool or rainy weather. Drip run times are typically 2 hours or more for each watering.</p>						

Watering Schedule for Newly Planted Desert Adapted Plants

How much and How Often	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
	Mar - May	May - Oct	Oct - Dec	Dec - Mar
Weeks 1 and 2	every 3 - 4 days	every 1 - 2 days	every 3 - 4 days	every 3 - 4 days
Weeks 3 and 4	every 6 - 7 days	every 3 - 4 days	every 6 - 7 days	every 6 - 7 days
Weeks 5 and 6	every 7 - 10 days	every 4 - 6 days	every 7 - 10 days	every 7 - 10 days
Weeks 7 and 8	every 10 - 14 days	every 7 days	every 10 - 14 days	every 10 - 14 days
After Week 8	Gradually extend the time between irrigations until plants are established.			

NOTE: After the eighth week, move the drip emitters to the outer edge of the root ball. High water-use plants may require more frequent irrigations. Water deeply to 24 - 36 inches for trees, 18 - 24 inches for shrubs, 8 - 12 inches for ground cover, vines, cactus, succulents and annuals, and 6 - 10 inches for warm and cool season grasses.

Based on information provided by the University of Arizona and Arizona Municipal Water Users

Be sure to visit the City of Chandler Water Conservation web pages for free landscape workshops, landscaping tips, rebates, frequently asked questions and more.

www.chandleraz.gov/water

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