

Proper Watering

These recommendations are a broad overview of watering plants. Your Horticulturist will provide specific information for your plants.

Considerations Before Watering

Trees, shrubs, evergreens, and perennials are generally categorized into 3 types of water needs. Moisture Loving, Typical, and Drought Tolerant. Use this as a base for using your best judgement on watering.

Roots need both **water** and **oxygen** to survive; more water means less oxygen, and vice-versa. **Overwatering** and **underwatering** are equally bad for plants, and the symptoms are somewhat similar.

Signs of Moisture Stress

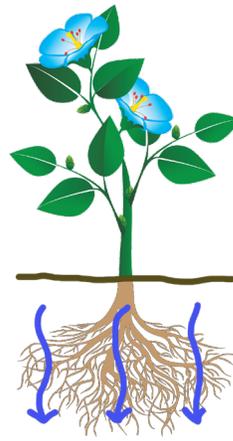
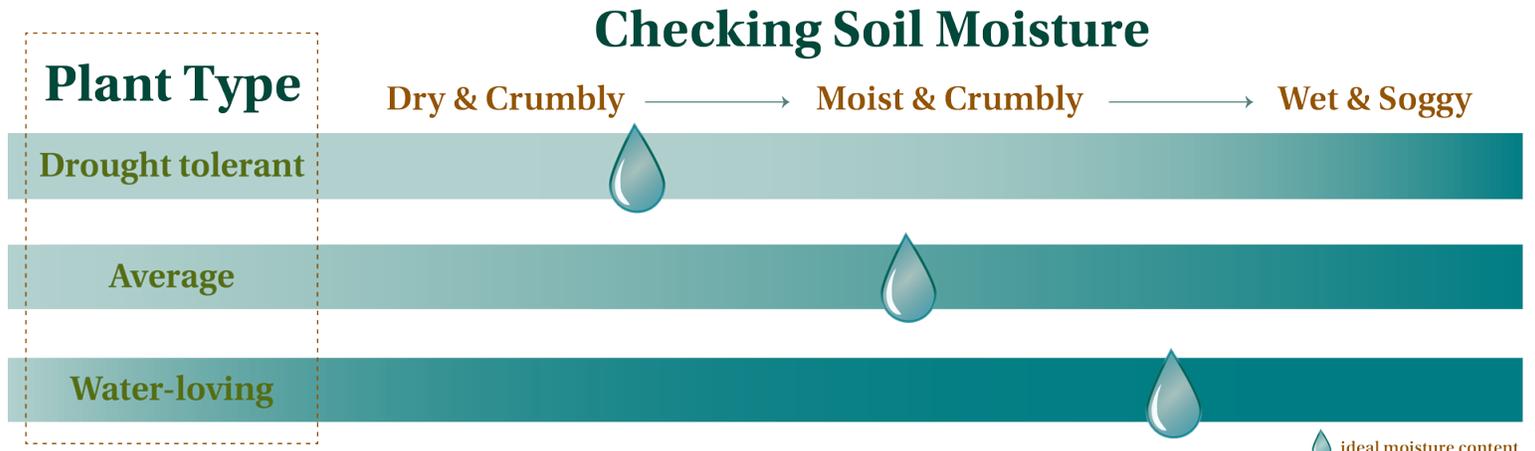
Plants will tell you when they aren't happy. The following symptoms should be treated as warnings to check your soil moisture and determine if a plant needs more or less water:

- Curling leaves
- Shiny leaves grow dull
- Bright green leaves lose color
- New growth wilts or droops
- Older (interior leaves) turn brown or drop
- Flowers fade quickly or prematurely

If you observe these symptoms, check your soil moisture and determine if the plant needs more or less watering.

Checking Soil Moisture

To check soil moisture, place your finger in the soil below the mulch surrounding a plant to a depth of 2 inches. Check in multiple locations to ensure that moisture is consistent. You will observe one of the three categories below:



The main objective of watering is to never allow the soil around new plantings to be too dry or too wet.

<--- Water the root zone

Watering New Plants

1. Water well at the time of planting
2. Check plant daily for signs of moisture stress for the first week
3. Water every 5 days for the first month
4. Water weekly for the remainder of the year

After That, How Often Should I Water?

1. Check if the soil has enough moisture
2. Is the plant displaying signs of moisture stress?

If your plant shows drought-stress and the soil is dry, you should water it more frequently to keep the soil moist. If the surrounding soil is soggy and the plant looks overwatered, you should hold off on watering until the soil has a chance to drain.

Disclaimer

Ultimately, plants are an investment, and our goal is to protect your investment. Weather, siting, and other factors affect how much water your plant(s) need; irrigation systems and natural rainfall don't usually provide adequate water.