

When Do I Water???

The following watering guidelines are adapted from "Landscape Watering by the Numbers" published by *Water, Use it Wisely*.

WATERING GUIDELINES: FOR **NEWLY PLANTED** LOW WATER PLANTS

Week 1 & 2:	Hot months- water every 1-2 days	Cool months - water every 3-4 days
Week 3 & 4:	Hot months- water every 3-4 days	Cool months - water every 6-7 days
Week 5 & 6:	Hot months- water every 4-6 days	Cool months - water every 7-10 days
Week 7 & 8:	Hot months- water every 7 days	Cool months - water every 10-14 days
After week 8:	Gradually extend the time between waterings until plants are established.	

(Establishment usually takes one year for small plants, two years for large shrubs and three years for trees)

WATERING GUIDELINES: FOR **ESTABLISHED** PLANTS

Refer to the *Water Wise Low Water Plants for Cochise County* list for plant supplemental water needs

	Mar- May (every)	May-Oct (every)	Oct-Dec (every)	Dec-Mar (every)	Watering Depth (every time you water)
Little to Moderate water use					
Trees	14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	30-60 days	24-36"
Shrubs	14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	30-45 days	18-24"
Ground Covers/Vines	14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	21-45 days	8-12"
Regular to High water use					
Trees	7-12 days	7-10 days	7-12 days	14-30 days	24-36"
Shrubs	7-10 days	5-7 days	7-10 days	10-14 days	18-24"
Ground Covers/Vines	7-10 days	2-5 days	7-10 days	10-14 days	8-12"

Check the depth of watering: Push a smooth metal rod (about 3/8" diameter) into the ground until it stops. This is how deep you have watered. Water again when the rod won't penetrate the ground more than 4". The above schedules are *guidelines* because watering frequency depends upon current weather conditions, plant type, size, soil type and plant establishment. Water at the outer edge of the plant's canopy and to the depth indicated above. Depending on emitter output and root depth, watering times are typically 1 or more hours. Check your plants to see how they perform with this schedule and modify it according to their needs.

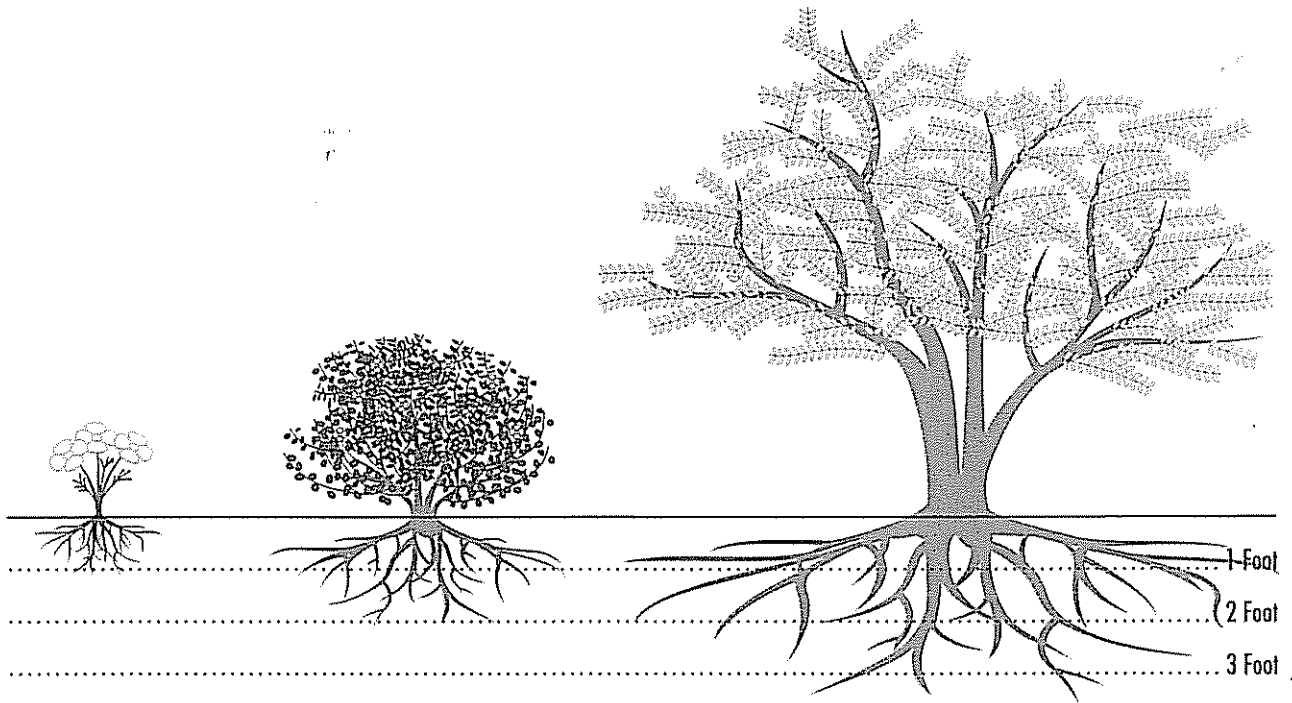
Understand the Water Needs of Your Plants: Plant roots need both air and water to survive. Most problems related to irrigation scheduling involve over-irrigation of the more drought-tolerant plants. Too much water will deprive the roots of air and can rot your plant. If you do not know the water needs of your plants, check with your nursery, plant books or your Cooperative Extension. Drought tolerant plants may be found growing in all types of soils, from sand to clay. Sandy soils do not hold moisture well, and drain quickly. Clay soils hold water tightly for long periods of time, and can cause the most problems with over-watering. Watering needs to be much less frequent in clay soils to allow for drying time that these plants need between irrigation intervals. **Don't forget to put a mulch, inorganic (rock) or organic (bark) 3" deep on top of the soil to hold in moisture.**

For more information on watering and plants, call the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Water Wise Program

Sierra Vista 458-8278 x 2141, Willcox 384-3594, Benson 586-3467, Douglas 364-4146

www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise

Suggested Watering Depth for Different Types of Plants



Place Emitters Along a Plant's Dripline

