

BLOOMINGTON VALLEY NURSERY

5230 South Old Highway 37

Bloomington, Indiana 47401

812-824-8813

Conscientious watering is crucial to the survival of your newly planted trees and shrubs! Please use the following instructions to help you:

1. *Morning* watering is best.
2. Soak the plants *once* each week if the temperature is below 80 degrees.
3. Soak plants *twice* each week if the temperature is 80 degrees or above.
(One inch of rain or more will substitute for one watering.)
4. Watering needs to continue throughout the summer until Thanksgiving.
5. It is better to water at the base of the plant as this is less likely to promote the formation of mildew and fungus.
6. Mulching is helpful for retaining moisture, however the mulch should not be mounded around the trunk.

Remember that watering too frequently is as harmful as not watering often enough!

Additional Watering Instructions:

Lack of water is the probably the biggest single cause of failure of newly planted trees and shrubs, because it's then that they are most vulnerable to drought. Water well during the first growing season to promote the growth of a good, healthy root system. Monitor the soil moisture. A good rule of thumb is to water when the top inch of soil has become dry. Sandy soils will dry out faster than humus-rich soils and those containing clay. Water slowly and deeply; the water must reach the roots. Trees and shrubs lose moisture through transpiration and sprinkling their leaves can help. Watering can also help to cool the plants. It should be done in the morning hours. Watering at midday allows more moisture to be lost to evaporation.

For established trees and shrubs, local climate, soil conditions and the drought resistance of your plants will determine how often to water. If you have chosen plants suitable for your soil and climate, rainfall should meet their needs except during severe droughts. During dry periods watch your plants for effects of drought – shoots drooping, leaves beginning to wilt or curl, shiny leaves turning dull. Many plants droop on hot summer days, but if they do not recover overnight, it's time to water. Drip-irrigation, soaker hoses, and systems that deliver water slowly right to the soil are preferable to overhead sprinklers for watering trees and shrubs. Frequent shallow watering of lawns can be harmful to trees and shrubs as they need the deep watering that reaches their root system so additional watering will be required.