

2021

# WATERING BASICS

*Best Feeds Garden Centers*

## The Highlights

### Water Consistently

**Quantity v. Quality**

Water regularly, consistency is essential. Water in the morning if possible so the plant can use the water all day. Second best time - early evening.

### How Much?

**Depends on the plant**

Not a great answer, but plant tags will help. Lawns or shrubs need about 1 inch per week. But crowded gardens with plants competing for water will need more. Soil also plays a role - clay soil will hold more, sandy soil not so much.

### New Plantings

**How to water new plants**

New plantings should be watered at the base. Plants drink through their roots so no need to spray leaves - sometimes that can be harmful. Water at a slow pace, like it just rained and not a flood. Water down about 4-6 inches. Shallow watering creates shallow roots.

### House Plants

**Water Lovers v. Succulents**

Leave room for water in the pot. Again, let the plant tag be your guide but as a rule of thumb so to speak: stick your finger in the soil up to about your knuckle to test for dryness. For succulents water when most of the soil feels dry. For all others, water when surface feels dry.

All plants need water. Improper watering is the number one cause of plant failure.



## THE DETAILS

Consider using a soaker hose that will deliver water directly to the soil. This type of hose is porous, with numerous tiny holes that seep water. Lay soaker hose on the ground around vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees.



Simply attach to a spigot and turn on when necessary. Soaker hoses can even be hidden in landscaped beds with a cover of mulch. Soaker hoses can be used effectively with water timers as well.



To see if the plant needs watered, stick your finger several inches into the soil or use a moisture meter. Do not wait until a plant becomes wilted before

you water. At this point you weaken the overall health of the plant. Avoid over-fertilizing, that causes growth spurts which will require more water! Also eliminate weeds to prevent them from competing for water.

