

WATER GUIDELINES FOR SHRUBS & TREES

Providing the right amount of water can be confusing, as plants lacking water and plants receiving an excessive amount of water can exhibit the same symptoms. Many people misinterpret a yellowing of leaves as a need for water. However in most instances, this is a sign of excessive watering or a need for fertilization. Excessive watering actually can leach or make unavailable, nutrients required for photosynthesis. Typically plants that are severely lacking water will begin to brown around the edges of the leaves. In severe cases, the furthest point from the roots will begin to suffer irreversible damage.

Here are some general watering guidelines:

Turf – 30 -35 minutes per day x 3 days per week. With soil high in clay content it might be advisable to split into 2 cycles of 15 -20 minutes. This will allow the water to penetrate deeper into the soil rather than run off down into the streets etc. This will also help to encourage deeper roots.

Shrubs – Most established shrubs require only 6 -10 minutes per day x 3 days per week. Newly installed container grown shrubs (container grown shrubs are grown in a combination of peat moss and bark) require this much water on a daily basis for up to 3 weeks during dry periods.

Trees – Most established trees should only need supplemental water during extremely dry conditions. Watering of established trees during these conditions can be accomplished by placing a hose near the base of the tree for 1 -2 hours 2x per week during dry periods.

Newly installed trees depending on the type of tree, time of year it was installed and whether it was B&B or container grown. General guidelines for newly installed trees would be along the same lines as shrubs, daily watering for 1 – 2 hours (time depending on type of tree).

Please keep in mind these are very general guidelines and can vary greatly. Manual watering is meant to supplement Mother Nature and prior to watering one should be wary of previous recent weather events and predicted weather events. Remember the general guideline for established plants and trees is the equivalent of 1” of rainfall per week.

Avenbury Lakes Landscape Committee