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Watering Plants in Light Soil

Watering your plants appropriately during their first season will be the most vital element to their survival. Most plants that die within the first year have not been watered properly. To have a healthy and blooming landscape, understanding when and how much to water your plants is crucial. The following chart is a guideline for how to water your new plants if you have light soil in your yard.

Light Soil Guide

Weather Conditions	Daytime Highs (°F)	When to Water	How Much to Water
Wet	N/A	Some watering may be needed, unless rains have been slow-soaking and have accumulated 1" per week.	
Cool	< 60	Every 4 th day during the first month after planting; every 8 th day after the first month.	For trees: Apply 1 – 1.5 gallons per inch of the diameter of the plant's stem. For shrubs, perennials, evergreens: Apply 1 gallon per foot of height.
Warm	60-80	Every other day during the first month after planting; every 6 th day after the first month.	
Hot	80+	Every day during the first month after planting; every 4 th day after the first month.	

While plants will suffer if they have not been watered enough, watering too much is just as detrimental. To ensure you are not overwatering your plants, feel the soil beneath your layer of mulch or rock. <u>It should never be soggy</u>, and if it is, hold off on watering until the soil feels dry to the touch.

Your plants will also need to be watered throughout the fall, right up until the ground is frozen. This is essential to the success of your plants over the winter season. If your plants go into the winter months without having been appropriately watered, they will likely suffer.