

Garden Watering

About 90% of problems we see with garden plants are related to watering.

Zone your automatic sprinklers: Automatic sprinkler systems are great for lawns but you must be careful on your flower beds. Generally we feel it is best if flower beds are on a separate zone.

Hand watering isn't very effective: Watering with a hose and nozzle on the end is not sufficient. You would have to stand there too long to get the water deep enough into the soil. We recommend a soaker hose or separate sprinkler that you can attach to your hose. Set it up and leave it running. We are all too busy to be standing there with the hose when we could be doing something else!



When to water: The soil type you have, combined with weather conditions, will determine how long you need to leave the sprinkler on and how often you need to water.

How much is enough: The first time you use the sprinkler you need to check every hour and see how far down the water has penetrated the soil. Your goal is to get the water down 4-6" for a thorough soaking. On sandy soil you may have to water every 2-3 days and in heavier soil maybe only 1x per week. You should check the soil every day to determine when to water.

Grow, don't mow!: Try to set the sprinkler so it doesn't hit the grass. Otherwise the time you save watering by sprinkler will be spent cutting the lawn 3x a week!

Feed your garden: Try to feed the garden once a week. There are fertilizer injectors you can buy to put on the end of the hose before the sprinkler (You mix the fertilizer into a concentrated liquid form and the water is mixed with it at the correct rate when it comes out the sprinkler.) Or you can get fertilizer dispensers to put on the hose and water by hand for a single watering when you want to feed. These are relatively inexpensive (about \$10) and are great little inventions.

