



Guide to WATERING TREES & SHRUBS



1 How often to water? (Days between watering)



Season	Trees & Shrubs		Cacti/Succulents
	Desert adapted	High water use	
Winter (Dec.-March)	once every 30 days	once every 10 days	only if needed
Spring (March-May)	once every 14 days	once every 7 days	once every 21 days
Summer (May-Oct.)	once every 7 days	once every 5 days	once every 14 days
Fall (Oct.-Dec.)	once every 14 days	once every 7 days	once every 21 days

Tip: Watering longer but infrequently helps develop strong roots and healthy plants.

2 How much water does your shrub/tree need every time you water?



SHRUB						
Shrub diameter	1 ft	2 ft	3 ft	4 ft	5 ft	6 ft
Water needed	1 gal	4 gal	8 gal	12 gal	17 gal	20 gal
TREE						
Tree diameter	4 ft	6 ft	10 ft	14 ft	18 ft	20 ft
Water needed	16 gal	26 gal	59 gal	115 gal	190 gal	235 gal

Tip: Ground cover and cacti need about half as much water as shrubs of the same diameter.

4 Calculate run time

$$\text{Gallons needed (gal)} \div \text{flow rate (gph)} = \text{run time (hrs)}$$



Tip: If your plants have multiple emitters, add the flow rates together.

Tip: If you have different sized plants, start with the average run time and adjust as needed.

Tip: If you have trees and shrubs on the same valve, water for the trees and adjust as needed.

3 Determine your drip system flow rates (gph = gallons per hour)



1/2 gph
approx. one second between drips



1 gph
constant drips



2 gph
1/2" stream before drips



4 gph
1" stream before drips

Tip: Some drip emitters are stamped with flow rates; emitter color does not indicate flow rate.

Tip: Install pressure compensating drip emitter to ensure correct flow rates.