



## Guide to WATERING TREES & SHRUBS

**1**



### How often to water?

(Days between watering)

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

**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.

**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.