



# WATERING GUIDE

Start your new plants  
off right!

Smart watering will make a big difference  
in the long term health of new plants.

## year 1

*(spring through fall, when  
weather is dry)*

**When planting:** Water plants  
as soon as you get them in the  
ground. Allow the water to  
soak in, then water again  
until the soil is thoroughly  
moistened.

**Week one:** Water plants daily  
or every other day. Just-  
planted roots will be able to  
absorb moisture from only a  
small area until they begin to  
grow.

**Week two, onward:** Unless  
the weather is extremely hot  
and dry, you may be able to  
decrease watering frequency  
to two or three times per week  
until fall.

## years 2 & 3

Water deeply only once or  
twice per week. Exactly how  
often and how long you water  
will depend on your soil and  
other conditions. Follow the  
tips on the next page.

## after year 3

Properly planted and watered  
plants should be fairly well  
established and can thrive  
with less watering than you  
may expect. Drought-tolerant  
plants may need no  
supplemental water, whereas  
shallow-rooted plants or  
plants with greater water  
needs may need water weekly.  
Many plants, when selected for  
the conditions in your yard,  
may need watering only once  
or twice a month in dry  
weather.

## DEEPER, LESS FREQUENT WATERING

will grow plants with healthier and more extensive roots  
so plants are more resilient to stress and drier  
conditions.

# WATER SMART!

## **Use water wisely!**

Water plants when they need it, and apply water according to your soil type and weather. Do not apply water faster than the soil can absorb it.

**Water in the morning** so that less water is lost to evaporation.

**Choose the right watering method.** A soaker hose applies water directly to the soil and reduces evaporation. If you are planting a few plants in an existing planting bed, hand watering can get the new plants the water they need while not overwatering the rest of the bed.

**Get to know your soil,** as it greatly affects watering frequency and duration.

**Check soil moisture before watering.** Probe soil with a spade or trowel. Generally, you want the soil to be dry an inch or two below the surface before you water.

**Recheck soil after watering.** An hour after you water (or two hours with clay soil), probe the soil to see how deeply the water penetrated. If it didn't reach the root zone, you may need to increase your watering. If the area is soggy, try cutting back on watering next time.

**Encourage deep roots** by allowing the top inch or two of soil to dry before watering again.

**Pick the right plant for the right place.** Choose plants that are pest resistant, require less water, and match the sun, shade, and soil in your yard.

**Avoid planting in hot, dry weather** which can easily stress plants. If you must plant in summer, plant in the cool of the morning when less water is lost to evaporation.

**Mulch for moisture.** Mulching the surface of the soil reduces evaporation so you can water less often.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Drought-tolerant plants** need regular water until they are established!

**Container plants** Planted containers tend to dry out quickly, particularly unglazed clay pots. Check them daily during the summer by sticking your finger into the soil. When the top two inches of soil is dry: water. Always apply enough water to saturate the soil until it drips out of the bottom drain hole.

**Shallow-rooted plants** such as rhododendrons, azaleas, boxwood, gardenia, and bedding plants may need more frequent supplemental watering than other plants.

**Young trees** need deep regular watering. During times of little or no rain, water deeply once a week until trees becomes established.



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# PLANT IT RIGHT!!

## A Quick Guide to Proper Planting Techniques for New Trees, Shrubs and Flowers

**Plant and Site Selection.** Remember the rule of "the right plant for the right place" to maximize plant vigor and health throughout the season. Consider soil, slope, amount of light, space or size, hardiness zone, drainage, exposure, and soil pH. In particular, if the site is naturally dry, select drought-tolerant plants. *Safety first: call before you dig (800-552-7001) to identify underground lines.*

**Plant Spacing.** Don't crowd the plants. Yes, it is small now, but space plants according to their final size.

**Planting Hole.** For both woody and herbaceous plants, the planting hole should be dug 1.5 to 2 times wider but no deeper than the root ball. For trees and shrubs, use the soil dug from the hole to refill it - adding 30-40% pine fine/soil conditioner and  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 cup bone meal with your native soil. For planting beds, loosen the soil to a depth of 12 inches. Amend the soil with a 2 to 3-inch layer of organic matter (leaf compost or mushroom compost) that is mixed into the top 6 inches of the soil.

**Transplanting.** After a balled and burlapped (B&B) tree or shrub is placed in the planting hole at the proper depth, the burlap can be loosened and removed from the top of the root ball. With container-grown woody and herbaceous plants, the root ball should be moist but not wet at the time of planting. Never set the plant too deep in the hole. For trees, the root flare should be level with the edge of the planting hole.

- Handle the plant by root ball, not by the stem.
- Plant top of the root ball level with the surrounding soil.
- Snip or tease tightly packed roots before planting to increase soil contact.

**Fertilizing.** There is no need to fertilize trees and shrubs the first year after transplanting. Use a low level of liquid fertilizer or slow-release granular for herbaceous perennials and most bedding plants. We recommend using bone meal as an added amendment to your soil. Read above: Planting hole for details.

**Mulching.** Mulch to hold in soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and reduce weeds. Mulch materials include newspaper, landscape fabric, lawn clippings, straw, stone, gravel (3" deep), shredded hardwood (1" for fine, 2" for coarse) and wood chips (3-4"). If the soil is dry, water it deeply before mulching. Take care to keep mulches from directly contacting the stems of plants.

**Watering.** Please refer to our Watering Guide.

Proper planting will improve your landscape and reduce summer maintenance and water requirements.

**Plant it Right!! for a fun summer of beautiful gardens.**

For more information, visit the VGIC website:  
<http://www.viriniagreen.org>



## PLANT GUARANTEE AND RETURN POLICY 2025

**SNEED'S HAS BEEN IN THE PLANT BUSINESS SINCE 1976.** We understand the importance of quality plant material and have given each and every employee the power of discretion. Their instructions: 'If a plant arrives from a vendor, and you wouldn't plant it in your own yard, SEND IT BACK!' We do not have room or patience for a plant to grow into itself. It needs to be garden ready from day one. With that in mind, this is our guarantee when you trust us with your garden and landscape:

Sneed's guarantees top quality, disease/insect free, nursery stock that is true to its name. Trees or shrubs that fail to survive 6 months after purchase date will be replaced one time only. Should we not have the same plant in stock, we reserve the right to give a store credit for the amount due or supply plants of equal value. This time period is extended to one year, if planted by Sneed's. Sneed's will not in any event be liable for a sum greater than the original purchase price or for more than one replacement. We are not responsible for claims due to damage from the following: lack of care, lack of proper watering (see water guidelines) mechanical (vehicles, snow plows, mowers, etc.), chemicals, insects, disease, animals (pets, deer, voles, rabbits, etc.), vandalism, or damage through an act of Mother Nature (drought, flood, extreme cold, etc.).

Due to the somewhat finicky nature of the following plants, they are not guaranteed: perennials, annuals, roses, grasses, pond plants, houseplants, tropicals, and trees or shrubs planted in above ground containers.

In order to receive replacement, the dead plant and receipt are required.

**NOW FOR THE AWESOME PART,** Sneed's is here for YOU!!! Are you worried about something you planted? It's not looking right, something seems awry? Contact us before things really head south. Send us a picture or bring us a sample. If we can't figure it out, someone will come by and check on the plant. Yep, that's how much we stand by our plants and our commitment to you!

**NEED TO RETURN SOMETHING...YOU BOUGHT WAY MORE THAN YOU NEEDED?** Never fear! Sneed's will accept returns of healthy, well maintained plants within 48 hours of their purchase. Can't make it back in 48 hours? Give us a call and let us know what is going on. All plant returns will receive store credit.

**\*\*\*AS OF JANUARY 2017,** Sneed's can no longer accept boxwood returns due to the boxwood blight that exists in so many Richmond neighborhoods. We source all of our boxwood from clean growers (mainly Saunders Brothers in Piney River, VA). Saunders has been at the forefront of clean practices and research on blight. Until we have a viable treatment for the problem, we cannot accept any returns once the plant has been taken from our premises. Rest assured, however, that if you have purchased it from us, it is boxwood blight free.