



Watering

It may seem elementary, but proper watering techniques are essential to a healthy, attractive lawn. Occasional light rains or short downpours are not enough to ensure your soil has been sufficiently soaked. So whether you're tending your first lawn or simply wanting to confirm your watering approach is on track, the experts at Pine Hill Landscaping offer this advice.

Watering Wisely

Because summer rainfall is infrequent and unreliable, it is essential to water your lawn and landscape properly. The key is to water deeply and only as frequently as necessary to replace evaporated moisture. When there is no rain, irrigate so your lawn receives one inch of water each week. To find out how long you must irrigate to deliver one inch of water, place a soup can in the sprinkler pattern and note how long it takes for the captured water to reach a one-inch depth.

Newly planted trees and shrubs (those living on your site for less than three years) need to be watered, too. Adjust water flow so there is only a trickle of water coming from the end of your garden hose, and place it near the base of the plant. Let the hose trickle for up to one hour to adequately water your newest trees and shrubs.

Question:

What is the best way to water my lawn?

Answer:

Established lawns should be watered deeply, but infrequently. Deep watering once a week encourages deeper root growth, while frequent, shallow watering produces a limited root system.

When watering, make sure you moisten the top three to four inches of soil, which covers the root zone.

Although watering frequency depends on the type of grass, your soil, and the weather, most grasses require about one inch of water each week for healthy growth.

The best time to water is in the morning. This conserves water that would evaporate if you were to water later in the day, but also allows grass to dry before evening. Grass that remains wet for long periods of time is more susceptible to disease development.

If you're using a movable sprinkler, let it run in one spot just until the water begins to run off the surface, then move to a different area of the lawn.



Monitor your underground irrigation or sprinkler system to ensure that you moisten the lawn's entire root zone without over-watering any sections.

Water the lawn once grass begins to discolor and wilt. If you can't keep the grass green, water your lawn with at least one-half inch of water every seven to 14 days, which will keep the plants alive even if they are dormant.

Once your lawn has turned brown and lost all color during drought dormancy, it will take several weeks of steady watering to spur regrowth from the crown area of the plants.