



TORO®

HOW TO EFFICIENTLY WATER NEWLY PLANTED TREES AND SHRUBS

PROTECT YOUR LANDSCAPING INVESTMENTS WITH TORO IRRIGATION



Trees and shrubs can be a big investment. But improving your landscape can pay off when it comes to the value of your home. According to a University of Texas at Arlington study published in “The Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics” (February 2024), curb appeal can account for up to seven percent of a home’s value. Watering your new additions effectively and efficiently helps protect your investment and can make all the difference when it comes to creating a thriving outdoor space.

NEW TREES

Depending on your location, soil type and weather conditions, new trees require frequent watering, from 2-3 times per week to daily. It can take up to two growing seasons (late spring to early summer) for trees to become established. To ensure your new trees stay healthy, here are tips to water effectively and efficiently.

- Water trees deeply and thoroughly to encourage root growth. Focus on watering the entire area covered by the tree’s canopy to encourage the root ball to grow.
- If rain soaks the ground, you can skip that day of watering. Proceed with your regular watering schedule following that skipped day.



- [Drip irrigation](#) is a great choice for new trees so you don't have to fret (or carry buckets of water to your trees). Consider hooking up to a [hose-end or tap timer](#) to create a self-sufficient set-up, or connect to an existing in-ground irrigation system where you can incorporate scheduled waterings through your existing controller (or upgrade to a [smart controller such as the Toro EVOLUTION®](#) to increase water efficiency and save money).



- Bubbler sprinklers, such as the [Toro 500 Series Bubbler](#), also work well for watering new trees. Like drip irrigation, you can connect these to an existing in-ground irrigation system and controller.

Once your trees have matured, testing the soil will determine if you need to water. Dig a small hole under the tree, and if the soil is moist nine inches below the surface level, the tree is getting enough water. A soil sensor,

such as the [Toro Precision™ Soil Sensor](#), can take the work (and guess work) out of this by testing process to ensure you're not overwatering or underwatering.



If it is time to water a mature tree, or if you're setting up a drip or bubbler system for existing trees, soak the entire area under the canopy, and just like with new trees, make sure to water deeply so the moisture gets to the roots, which reduces the frequency of watering needed. Also, avoid watering the tree trunk, as this can increase the risk of disease and rot.

SHRUBS

New shrubs and blooming plants also need to be carefully tended to protect your investments. For shrubs and blooming plants, water well immediately after planting. Then, check the soil regularly and if it is dry 4-6 inches below the surface, it's time to water again. Drip irrigation is an excellent choice for keeping your new plants watered while reducing water usage and evaporation and saving money. Soil sensors can be a beneficial tool with new shrubs and blooming plants, too.

For trees, shrubs and blooming plants, adding a layer of organic matter, such as wood chips or mulch, can also help retain moisture and keep weeds at bay around both trees and shrubs.

Save money, water and get the most out of your landscaping investment by efficiently watering your new trees and plants. Find more information about drip irrigation online [under the Homeowner tab](#) at [Toro.com](#) or reach out to a local landscape professional.