



# FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

## Watering, Tips, Ticks and Tools

Keeping your garden properly watered can make the difference between a thriving garden and a wilting one, but how much and how often should you be watering? Follow the five W's of watering (Who, What, Where, When & Why) and be on your way to watering more efficiently and effectively.

### THE FIVE W'S OF WATERING:

#### WHO?

- You and Mother Nature
- Remember, you can't always count on the rain for watering.
- Once plants are established, then watering will only be needed during certain times of the year.

#### WHAT?

- Lawns, trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, houseplants, hanging baskets and containers.
- Fescue lawns may require supplemental waterings during the summer as well as broadleaf evergreens and conifers that may be accustomed to a slightly cooler climate.
- self-sufficient to acquire water on its own. Keep these plants in mind when it gets hot and rainfall has been limited.

#### WHERE?

- Water at the roots.
- Very few plants actually take moisture through their leaves (watering the leaves can cause fungus and disease).

*TIP: Water at the drip line. Always water the soil surrounding the plant from the drip line in. The drip line is determined by the width of the plant (the branches or leaves that are the furthest away from the center of the plant). Below the drip line is where the smallest roots are located and usually are the ones that need water the most.*

#### WHEN?

- Plants require moisture during the day as they lose moisture through a process called transpiration (the process that cools plants down).
- The best time to water is in the morning, so plants can use moisture throughout the heat of the day. When night comes and the temps get cooler, transpiration is slowed and plants require less water. Also, dampness and darkness can cause fungus, so watering in the morning is always best.
- Wilting doesn't always mean that the plant needs water. Plants can wilt on a hot day as a way to cope with temperature but then rebound when the evening cools off. As long as the top of the soil is moist, you probably don't need to water.
- Recheck your plants at dusk, and determine if the wilting is due to temporary heat stress before watering.
- Water plants in the sun first and work your way towards plants in the shade. Shade plants don't need immediate watering like plants in full sun.

*TIP: Use a rain gauge or moisture meter to help take some of the guesswork out of watering.*

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### WHY?

- Watering is crucial in helping plants grow and mature.
- Very little water is actually used to make plants grow; a majority of the water is used in transpiration.
- Without water, plants will wilt and leaves will turn yellow. New leaves will be hard to form.
- When roots get dry, they can no longer take up the moisture they need and die.
- Water is the only way nutrients and minerals used to make plants grow circulate through the system of a plant.
- Terminal wilt can occur when the root system gets so dry that the roots are not able to absorb nutrients and minerals.

**What is transpiration?** *Transpiration is the process where plants absorb water through the roots and then give off water vapor through pores in their leaves.*

### HOW ?

Follow these watering guidelines to ensure your plants stay hydrated and healthy all season long:

- Water in the morning.
- Water roots not the leaves.
- Water deep and less often.
- Water less in cooler temps.

**Did you know?** *Watering plants a little every day will not encourage root development. Give your plants a good watering and then allow them to dry out a little before watering again.*

*During this drying out phase, the plant will search for water, which will help them to develop a larger and deeper root system over time.*

### WATERING CONTAINERS AND HANGING BASKETS

Plants in containers and hanging baskets dry out quicker than plants in the ground. Wind and evaporation can dry them out quickly and temperatures get warmer above ground than in the ground.

### OTHER CONTAINER WATERING TIPS:

- Water containers at least every other day (or everyday) depending on how hot it is.
- Make sure pots have drainage holes.
- Be sure that water is not gushing out of the bottom of the container. This will flush fertilizer and nutrients out (this is especially true for hanging baskets).
- When planting containers, leave a 1-2 inch soil lip at the top of the pot to allow water to collect and not spill out.
- Look for soil pulling away from the sides of the pot. This can happen when soil is too dry and may require additional watering.
- Be sure to drain excess water out of saucers underneath pots. Plants that sit in water too long can suffer from root rot.

### TOOLS

- Watering cans.
- Hoses : Zero or Fitt hose
- Dramm Watering Wand
- Moisture meter

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### HOUSEPLANTS

- Most indoor plants like a wet/dry cycle, but always be aware of the watering requirements for each of your indoor plants.
- Don't get on a schedule where you water them all on the same day- water when it is needed.
- Don't have too much soil. When upgrading pot sizes, be sure not to go too big. Too much soil takes longer to dry out soil indoors takes even longer to dry out (root rot can occur).

### HOUSEPLANT WATERING TOOLS:

- Small watering cans - allows for watering at the root.
- Saucers - to protect surfaces and provide humidity (for plants like orchids, tillandsia, etc.).
- Watering spikes - easy to use and provides consistent moisture. Perfect for using while on vacation.
- Blumat Water Siphon Spikes - easy to use and provides consistent moisture. Perfect for using while on vacation.
- A turkey baster is a great tool to remove water out of saucers and to water plants in terrariums.

### IN THE GROUND PLANTS

Annuals, Perennials, Veggies, Herbs, Shrubs and Trees

- Water 3-5 minutes per gallon-size plant.
- For plants that have recently been planted, watering every 2-3 days for 2-3 weeks.

- Carefully watch new plantings throughout the summer. After a year, once plants are established, water during drought periods.
- Water plants growing in full sun more often than those in shade.

### IN GROUND TOOLS

- A good hose is essential (Zero G or Fitt Hose) - ideal for watering containers, beds, trees and shrubs, and the landscape.
- Damm Watering Wand - easy to use and provides a gently, steady stream of water to plants.
- Soaker Hoses - provides a slow, deep watering to beds, trees and shrubs. (run longer than you think, usually 1 hour at minimum).

### LAWNS

- Water between 5:00am-10:00am in order to prevent evaporation.
- Morning is better than evening, since dampness encourages fungus.
- Water long enough to soak the roots. A light sprinkling evaporates quickly and results in shallow root systems.
- Allow an inch of water per week for lawns.
- Adjust your hose to create a gentle rain. Sprinklers that produce a fine mist waste water due to evaporation.
- When seeding lawns, water 1 inch every morning until germination.
- After germination, water every day for 1-2 weeks then cut back to every other day, then every 3rd day, and so on until you're watering 1 inch per week.

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*TIP: To be sure you are watering the right amount, place an empty tuna can in the area where you are sprinkling. When there is about an inch of water in the can, that's the amount of time you should be watering twice weekly.*

### **TOOLS FOR WATERING LAWNS**

- A good hose is essential (Zero G or Fitt Hose) - Ideal for watering containers, beds, trees and shrubs, and the landscape.
- Sprinklers -sprays out a fan-shaped curtain of water to beds, lawns, trees and shrubs and the landscape.
- Timers - ensure that plants and garden get the hydration they need in a routine way.
- In-ground sprinkler systems - by far the easiest and most effective way to water your lawn. Can be programmed to automatically water the grass on a regular schedule.

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