

Watering Plants in Heavy Soil

Watering your plants appropriately during their first season will be the most vital element to their survival. Most plants that die within the first year have not been watered properly. To have a healthy and blooming landscape, understanding when and how much to water your plants is crucial. The following chart is a guideline for how to water your new plants if you have heavy soil in your yard.

Heavy Soil Guide

Weather Conditions	Daytime Highs (°F)	When to Water	How Much to Water
Wet	N/A	Do not water.	For trees: Apply 1 – 1.5 gallons per inch of the diameter of the plant's stem. For shrubs, perennials, evergreens: Apply 1 gallon per foot of height.
Cool	< 60	Little watering is needed; every 6 th day is plenty.	
Warm	60-80	Every 4 th day during the first month after planting; every 6 th day after the first month.	
Hot	80+	Every 2 nd day during the first month after planting; every 6 th day after the first month.	

While plants will suffer if they have not been watered enough, watering too much is just as detrimental. To ensure you are not overwatering your plants, feel the soil beneath your layer of mulch or rock. It should never be soggy, and if it is, hold off on watering until the soil feels dry to the touch.

Your plants will also need to be watered throughout the fall, right up until the ground is frozen. This is essential to the success of your plants over the winter season. If your plants go into the winter months without having been appropriately watered, they will likely suffer.

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