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Trees - A general rule of thumb is around an inch of water per caliper inch of trunk per week. The caliper inch of a tree is the diameter of the trunk around a foot above the soil level. Like shrubs, a hose placed at the base of the tree with a slow dribble that soaks into the soil for around an hour or so to get moisture all the way through the ball of the tree. Red Maples, River Birch, Dawn Redwood all may require twice as much water than more drought tolerant trees like Oaks or Honey Locust.

Evergreen Trees and Shrubs - It is important to continue to water most evergreen trees and shrubs until the ground freezes which is often around Christmas. Depending on weather watering every week or two will help protect against winter burn during the windy cold months.

During the first year after your new plants have been installed, they will require the most attention but it can take up to 5 years to get them fully established so in times of high temperatures and/or little rain check your plants and give them some water.

Sod - Generally speaking, established turf requires around an inch of water a week but newly installed sod requires more water. Sod dries out quickly until it is fully rooted. If the weather is in the upper 80s-90s, your newly installed sod may need to be watered 2 (sometimes 3) times a day for a couple of weeks or until the weather cools. The root zone for sod is very thin and exposed so it can change from moist to dry in a short time on a hot sunny day. Like trees and shrubs, constantly soggy wet roots can be just as detrimental to establishment as overly dry. After 2-3 weeks during the growing season, sod usually has started to establish roots into the surrounding soils so you can water less frequently but apply more water per application. Watering procedures for new sod vary depending on the season. Often, in the spring or fall with rainier weather patterns and cooler temperatures, watering your sod once daily or every other day for the first 3 weeks may all that will be required. After a month, water once a day or every other day to eventually once or twice a week depending on the season.

Establishing Grass Seed – The key to getting grass seed to germinate is constantly moist soil in the top inch of soil for around two weeks. Unlike sod that requires heavy watering, grass seed requires light frequent watering several times a day to keep the soil constantly moist. Since most grass is a blend of several different types of seed, you may see new grass in just a few days but it can take two weeks for all of the Kentucky Blue Grass blends to germinate. It is for this reason, spring and fall are often the best time to plant grass seed because the cooler temperatures and rainier weather patterns work with you to keep the soil constantly moist. After the seed has germinated, watering can be reduced to less frequent but more water per application as the root system grows and becomes more established.

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