

# How much WATER does it need?



Everyone knows that plants need water, but deciding how much to give them can be a challenge. If you have a drip system, it is pretty easy: most emitters give 2-gallons per hour and these can be set to run for 20-30 minutes each day (totaling ~1-gallon per emitter). For 1-gallon and 5-gallon plants and trees, use one emitter. For 15-gallons, use two emitters. For larger plants use more emitters. If you don't have a drip system, create a dirt berm around the base of the plant to create a large basin above the roots. Add 2-3 inches of mulch in the basin. Fill the basin with water every day or every other day. Keep an eye on your plants! If the leaves are yellowing, browning, or wilting, it probably needs more water.



Each fall we have our fingers crossed that it will be a wet winter! Water is incredibly important for plants, even in winter. It is important to remember to water your plants and trees during periods of no rain. It may be cold out so it is easy to think that the plants don't need water, but they do need a good watering once or twice a month in winter. Also, it's a good idea to water plants before a freeze. Generally, moist soil stays warmer than dry soil and also plant cells that are full of water can protect themselves better against frost. Be careful not to over-water, but pay attention to the weather and keep in mind that long dry spells and parched roots during a freeze can be deadly for your plants. For more information on when to water plants in the winter, [click here!](#)