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Yard 'n' Garden



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SUMMER WATERING

Watering in the summer is important for both the lawn and flower border. Keep a close check on the soil so you will know when the water is becoming limited. Usually if there has not been any rain for a 10-day period, it is necessary to use supplementary watering.

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Many of our perennial plants need water after bloom in order to build up a good supply of nutrients in their storage organs. This supply will influence the flowering of the plant for the coming year.

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Water perennials and annuals before they begin to wilt. Watering can be done either in the morning or before evening if the foliage of the plant is not wetted during the watering process. Soak the soil around the plants to a depth of at least 6 inches to encourage the roots to grow deeper into the soil.

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Do not weed the flower border too soon after watering. Puddling of the soil can cause soil cracking and result in serious damage as well as a reduction in bloom.

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Water lawn during dry weather when the grass is actually suffering from lack of water. Do a thorough job of watering. Soak the soil down to the grass root depth. It is better not to water the home lawn at all than to water only lightly. Usually the home lawn requires at least 1 inch of supplementary watering during the growing season. If there has been adequate rainfall, supplementary watering is not necessary.

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Careful watering of container-grown plant materials is necessary. Do not water to the point of saturation where the water might stand in the container over an extended period of time. This standing water will cause root loss and damage to the plant. Be sure that there is adequate drainage in the bottom of all containers so that the excess water can drain out or be collected at the base of the container.

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