

Tree Establishment Water Schedule

Recommendations are made assuming all the following horticultural best management practices have been followed:

- One (1) inch of compost should be incorporated into the soil.
- Planting holes are a minimum of twice the width of the root ball and have sloping sides
- The root ball is planted at grade.
- Water the entire planting site until soil is saturated
- Two (2) inches of hardwood chip or pine bark or similar substance has been placed evenly over the entire planting site.

Establishment Water Schedule

Note: refer to <http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/>

The following schedule applies when rainfall is absent. If normal rainfall occurs, you may reduce or eliminate watering during that portion of the Establishment or Maintenance Phase.

- **Frequency**
 - 1st Month – water three (3) times a week over root ball only
 - 2nd Month – water two (2) times a week over root ball only
 - 3rd Month – water once (1) a week
 - Next three months – water twice a month
 - Next summer – water once April, May, June, July, August
- **Water Amount (per event)**
 - < 2 inch trunk – one (1) gallon per trunk inch
 - 2 - 4 inches – two (2) gallons per trunk inch
 - > 4 inches – three (3) gallons per trunk inch
- **Winter Dormancy** – eliminate 1st Month Schedule
- **Use of TreeGator Bags™** - eliminate 1st Month Schedule. Example: 2 times a week for 1 month, followed by 1 time a week for 1 month

Maintenance Schedule

(See the Woody Plant BMP for the Complete List of Practices)

- Native and adapted non-native plants that have been properly planted and established and grouped with similar water needs require little or no supplemental irrigation.
- If required, supplemental irrigation is recommended at the beginning and towards the end of a target plant species' growing season (growing season = March to August). 30 day events preferred.
- When irrigation is necessary, water deeply until at least the first 4 inches of soil are saturated. Cycle and soak may be necessary to achieve this. However, the preferred methods of woody plant irrigation are drip, bubbler, soaker hose, and by hand.
- Annual applications of 1 inch of compost and 2 inches of mulch to the greatest extent possible over the root zone. Less turf and more mulch are always preferred whenever and wherever possible.