

CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREES AND PLANTS

TRANSPLANT ACCLIMATION

Please be advised that most trees and plants, especially those with larger leaves, may go through an acclimation period after being planted. This is commonly referred to as “transplant shock”. This is due in part to the tree or plant moving from the cooler, shadier environment of a nursery to your hotter, probably sunnier yard. This is most common during summer months. The digging and agitation of roots that is normal during the transplanting can also contribute to a temporary decline in appearance of newly planted trees and shrubs. Don’t fret! Your new plants will settle in and get used to their new home with time, patience...and proper care of course!

YOUR NEW TREES AND PLANTS

The purpose for this advice sheet is to help proud new tree owners get a feel for watering and fertilizing effectively to prevent stress on both plants and owner! Desert gardening requires careful attention to the watering needs of each tree or plant in the landscape. With extreme heat, wind and low humidity common in our climate, watering properly can be the difference between a lush, enjoyable, healthy landscape and a so-so, barely surviving landscape. The following guide is just that, a guide; it is not set in stone and may vary yard to yard or tree to tree. Homeowners are responsible for adjusting watering times.

WATERING

After your new trees are planted, we would like you to water daily or at least every other day for the first 10-14 days. You may notice that the ground is still very wet the next day after you water your new tree. If this is the case, don’t water yet. This means your soil is probably high in clay content and doesn’t drain quickly. In this case, only water when the soil starts to dry or approximately every 2-3 days. On the other hand you may notice that the soil is already bone dry, the day after you water. This means your soil drains well and is probably rocky or sandy. In this case you will need to water daily for the first two weeks and maybe all summer long.

After the first couple of weeks, effective watering now requires close observation by the tree owner. You now want to observe how wet (or dry) your soil is between watering schedules.

Example: You watered everything thoroughly yesterday and today, you notice the ground is still wet on the surface or maybe half wet and dry. What you do know is probe. Take a 2 foot long, skinny metal bar and push it into the soil, near the outer edge of the well, (the flags we hand out make good water probes). If the tree is watered properly, the probe should push in, fairly easily to the proper depth (2 inches for trees, 1 inch for shrubs). If it doesn’t reach the proper depth, you will need to water again, until the probe reaches the proper depth. Keep checking each day with the probe until you develop your own “customized” watering schedule. You may find that your trees need more or less water than the general water guide. This is true because although temperatures are fairly similar across our entire valley, other factors can vary drastically. These factors include, but aren’t limited to humidity, wind, method of watering, rainfall, soil drainage (or lack of drainage), position of plant in yard, and type of plant. This is why probing soil is crucial to creating a custom watering schedule for your yard.

HOW MUCH WATER?

The following are approximate quantities of water you should apply each time you water—based on tree type.

HIGH WATER USE TREES i.e.; Ficus, Fruit and Citrus, Ash, Palm varieties, Purple Plum, Cottonwoods, Pine, varieties, and most non-native tree types.

	*FIRST YEAR
Tree size when planted	This may gallons each time you water
15 gallon	6-10 gallons
24" box	12-16 gallons
32" box	16-20 gallons
36" box	22-26 gallons
42"box & up	28-34 gallons

LOW WATER USE TREES i.e.; Mesquite, Palo Verde, Acacias, Ironwood and any native species.

	*FIRST YEAR
Tree size when planted	This may gallons each time you water.
15 gallon	5-6 gallons
24" box	8-10 gallons
32" box	14-16 gallons
36" box	18-22 gallons
42" box & up	28-34 gallons

Remember...frequency depends on the time of year and how fast your soil dries out. Use your probe. Signs which indicate water stress:

- New plant growth is wilting, droopy, or excessively curly leaves
- Tree an abnormal amount of leaves in the summer
- Brown "burn spots" is center or tips of leaves (especially prominent in ficus and ash species)
- New leaves are small and old leaves are yellow
- New citrus trees yellowing or thinning out

QUEEN PALM CARE GUIDE

Queen palms are some of the most beautiful palms that grow in our valley. If given proper care, they will always be as green and full as when purchased. Follow these instructions for best results:

1) WATERING

By far, the most important element necessary for the health of a Queen Palm is water. Queen Palms are native to very wet areas of the world. They grow very well here in the valley, but they do need more water than nature provides. For most palms that don't appear healthy, lack of enough water is usually the case. A good rule of thumb is that it is practically impossible to over water a queen palm, especially crucial for the summer months.

When applying water "wider is better". As a queen palm grows older, it's roots spread wider, but not much deeper. So make sure to apply water thoroughly across an area of about 3-5 times the width of the tree trunk.

How often to water is dependent on how hot the air temperature is. As the air gets hotter, water evaporates out of the soil much faster. To keep a good, health level of moisture for queen palms, we recommend the following schedule:

If the temperature is: Water this many timers per week:

93 or higher	Everyday
81-92	4 times per week
70-81	3 times per week
Below 70	2 times per week

2) FERTILIZING

Having the right blend of nutrients available to queen Palms is key to maintaining a healthy appearance. Most fertilizers being labeled as specifically for palm trees are good for Queen Palms. In addition to fertilizing, the element Manganese (not Magnesium) is crucial to keeping a Queen Palm healthy.

How much fertilizer a palm needs is dependent on the age and size of a tree. Application rates and instructions can be found on the fertilizer container, or you can ask a local nursery. When applying fertilizer, it is necessary to spread it over the entire width of the root ball area. This ensures that all parts of the tree will receive fairly equal amounts of necessary nutrients. Queen Palms should be fertilized 5 times per year. February, April, June, August and October are the best months to apply fertilizer and Manganese.

3) TRIMMING

Only fronds that hang mostly below horizontal should be cut off. Simply cut frond about 2-3 inches from the tree trunk. Usually trimming is only necessary once or twice a year.