

FACT SHEET

New Plant Establishment

Year-Round Water Conservation Measures

New plant material, including sod, may require extra water applications to become successfully established. Establishment period watering needs vary, depending on the type of plant material and the time of year involved.

The year-round water conservation measures include these provisions:

- A 60-day, two-step “establishment period” exemption is provided
- On days 1 to 30, extra establishment watering may be done on any day of the week
- On days 31 to 60, extra establishment watering may be done up to three days per week
- For even addresses, the three allowable days are Tuesday, Thursday and/or Sunday
- For odd addresses, the three allowable days are Monday, Wednesday and/or Saturday
- For common areas and other “no address” locations, the three allowable days are Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

This “establishment period” exemption is subject to the following limitations:

- On the day of installation (“day 1”), new plant material can be watered immediately, regardless of the time of the day
- After the day of installation, sprigs (a special form of turfgrass propagation, most commonly used to create high-quality athletic play surfaces with Bermudagrass) can continue be watered regardless of the time of day
- After the day of installation, all other forms of turfgrass propagation (seed, sod and plugs) may only be watered before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- After the day of installation, unless handwatering or low-volume irrigation is used, all non-grass new plant material may only be watered before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- Any trees, shrubs or other non-grass plant material that requires a longer establishment period should be separately watered using handwatering or low-volume irrigation technology (see separate fact sheet)
- An entire zone in an irrigation system may be set to an establishment schedule if the area that zone waters contains at least 50% new plant material
- Irrigation zones that contain less than 50% new plant material must be watered by some targeted means, such as handwatering or a soaker hose, so that only the new plant material is irrigated

General Information

Stricter local ordinances may apply, so be sure to also check with your local water utility.

If you have any questions about how these year-round water conservation measures apply to your situation, please e-mail Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.Org or call 1-800-848-0499 during normal business hours.