

Gardening Article

Watering is definitely the most critical chore in the garden this month. It seems as if it has become a full time job, especially without any help from Mother Nature. Try not to water in the late evening, since warm nights, moisture and darkness create the perfect recipe for lawn diseases and powdery mildew. It also creates a tropical paradise for slugs, snails, and mosquitoes.

Keeping your lawns green this time of year seems to be impossible, especially if you have a cool-season grass. Generally these lawns need approximately 1"-1.5" of water per week in order to stay green. One way to determine this approximation is to place cups throughout your lawn marking the 1" level on each cup. However, before you decide to start the tremendous chore of watering, one must decide to either water his lawn consistently throughout the summer or let the lawn go dormant, as conditions turn warm and dry. Do not rotate back and forth. In other words, don't let the grass turn totally brown, apply enough water to green it up, and let the grass go dormant again, as breaking dormancy actually drains large amounts of food reserves from the plant.

As for watering your plants, here are some basic rules to remember. Water plants thoroughly once a week if there is less than one inch of rainfall during that week. The water should be applied slowly and repeatedly to allow it to soak into the soil. One rule of thumb is to water so that it is penetrating 6"-8" below the surface of the soil. Watch plants for wilting and other signs of water stress. Misting the foliage with a fine spray helps revive wilted plants, but remember to do this in early morning to help prevent foliar burn.

For more gardening information go to www.crownslandscaping.com