

# HOW TO WATER & MULCH

## HOW TO WATER CORRECTLY

Learning to water correctly takes just a small amount of effort and gives great returns. Follow these easy steps, and your plants will be healthy and happy!

For indoor plants:

If at all possible, pick plants up and put them either in the sink or in the tub. This way, you'll be assured that they get plenty of water and that it penetrates all the way to the roots. Also, you'll be able to drain off the excess water easily. Most houseplants need to be watered thoroughly every time. Watering just a little bit, or a pitcherful at a time is NOT a good thing. The plant never develops the deep, strong root system that it needs to survive and thrive, thus shortening its lifespan. Also, shallow watering contributes to leaves turning yellow and dropping off. By making sure you water thoroughly each time, you also cut the need for frequent watering, saving you both time and effort.

For outdoor plants:

Using a hose to water outside is the most sensible way to do it. Anything that's planted in the ground, needs a good deep watering each time. If at all possible, when you water larger plants and trees, lay the hose on the ground at the base of the plant, and leave the hose on a slow drip or trickle. This will ensure that the water actually penetrates the rootball, and doesn't run off into the surrounding soil. Soaker hoses are a great way to accomplish this also, saving you a whole lot of money and water and time. Different plants do have different water requirements, so make sure you're watering yours correctly.

## HOW TO MULCH CORRECTLY

Mulching properly is an easily learned skill. The biggest mistake most people make is using too much mulch. Trees and shrubs only need 1-2" of mulch. There is absolutely no need for anything deeper than that. If mulch is applied too deeply, air, light and water cannot penetrate down to the roots of the plant, and this can either stress or kill the plant. Too much mulch heaped up around the stems and trunks of plants can choke plants and kill them.

Shredded hardwood: most popular kind, packs down, doesn't blow, will fade fairly rapidly, will harbor artillery fungus

Fine pine: very fine chip pine, best for perennial and annual beds in flat areas

Mini nuggets: medium size pine nuggets, good for any kind of area

Large nuggets: large pine nuggets, good for playground areas and large beds

Pine needles: light and airy, decomposes easily

Cocoa shell: made from hulls of cocoa beans, has a great chocolate smell, will mold if put down too heavily, do not use in areas where you have pets

Cedar mulch: shredded cedar, doesn't break down easily, cedar aroma, offers some insect resistance

Cypress mulch: shredded cypress, very slow to break down, nice blonde color, offers some insect resistance