



# “WHAT’S GROWING ON”

*The latest news on landscape care from the experts at JLS.*

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## Watering Guidelines for Newly Established Plants

Newly planted trees are most susceptible to winter drought injury. Trees generally take one year to establish for each inch of trunk diameter. All plants obtain water best when it is allowed to soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. As a general survival rule, apply 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a two-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering and about 5 gallons per shrub. Newly planted shrubs require more water than established shrubs that have been planted for at least one year. Shrubs also can be mulched to retain moisture. In dry winters, all trees and shrubs benefit from winter watering once weekly from October through March. Herbaceous perennial establishment periods vary. Bare root plants require longer to establish than container plants. Plants transplanted late in the summer or fall will not establish as quickly as plants planted in the spring. Winter watering is advisable with all perennials, especially bare root plants or those located in windy or southwest exposures.



## Tips on Winterizing Landscapes

Winter is on its way and it is time to ask yourself some questions to determine if you are prepared for the season change.

- Have you scheduled a sprinkler system blowout?
- Is your snow and ice control plan complete?
- Have your trees and shrubs been pruned for fall?
- Are there old or thinning amounts of mulch in planting beds?

As the weather becomes colder and the foliage on plants and trees turns it is a good idea to do some fall cleaning to help put you ahead for next spring. It’s as easy as collecting the fallen leaves from lawn areas and planting beds. Leaves and other debris left on your property may cause insect infestations, create dead spots, hinder growth, and may even pose a safety issue.

Pruning deciduous trees and shrubs in the fall can allow for a stronger, healthier buds next spring. Yet, it’s important to note that pruning prematurely may promote new growth, but can also be more susceptible to frost damage and stunting.

It is also a good idea to cut back your perennials and remove summer annuals. In fall, dead growth on perennials and all annuals should be removed to minimize over-winter diseases and help eliminate breeding places for insects. A clean annual and perennial bed will also add curb appeal to any entrance or parking lot island.

Irrigation systems are also a top concern during the winter because they are the most susceptible to damage and repairs are very costly. It is important to ensure that the system is blown out or drained, in order to make certain all water is removed from pipes and sprinkler heads. Also, remember to turn off all automatic controllers and power to save electricity.