



Field Guide for Watering Newly-Planted Landscape Trees – 100 litre containers and bigger

The following table gives suggested water application rates, frequency, and duration based on the best information available. It's important to remember that these and actual water needs will vary according to a range of site conditions and species. Please also remember these suggested rates are broad estimates only. Always carefully monitor the trees in your project(s), paying particular attention to drainage and leaf droop, and vary as needed.

WATERING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY PLANTED TREES – 100 litre containers and bigger				
CONTAINER SIZE [litres]	APPLICATION RATES		WATERING DURATION	
	FREE DRAINING SOILS	HEAVY/CLAY SOILS	PERIOD 1: MINIMUM	PERIOD 2: PREFERRED
100	20 litres	15 litres	0-6 months	7-12 months
150	30 litres	20 litres	0-6 months	7-12 months
200	40 litres	30 litres	0-6 months	7-12 months
250	50 litres	35 litres	0-6 months	7-12 months
300	60 litres	45 litres	0-6 months	7-12 months
400	80 litres	60 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
500	100 litres	75 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
600	120 litres	90 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
700	140 litres	105 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
800	160 litres	120 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
1,000	200 litres	150 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
1,200	240 litres	180 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months
1,500	300 litres	225 litres	0-12 months	13-24 months

[Table design and layout courtesy of Phil Williams, Director, 'Terras' Landscape Architects]

TIME OF YEAR	WATER FREQUENCY		
	1 ST MONTH	2 ND & 3 RD MONTHS	BALANCE: PERIODs 1 OR 2
SEP TO FEB	4 x PER WEEK (e.g. Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat)	3 x PER WEEK (e.g. Mon/Wed/Fri)	2 x PER WEEK (e.g. Mon/Thurs)
MAR TO MAY	3 x PER WEEK (e.g. Mon/Wed/Fri)	2 x PER WEEK (e.g. Mon/Thurs)	1 x PER WEEK
JUNE TO AUG	2 x PER WEEK (e.g. Mon/Thurs)	1 x PER WEEK	1 x PER FORTNIGHT

** DELETE A WATERING IF RAINFALL OCCURS 48 HOURS PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED WATERING & EXCEEDS 50mm.*

NOTE:

- All recommendations assume that the water is applied slowly, directly, and effectively to the rootball (see [‘Make Sure Your New Trees Thrive’](#)).
- Suggested rates are less than ideal. They are intended to be achievable while, hopefully, still effective. Please use them as a base to build on rather than something to strive for.
- And this guide is ‘general’. Less water may be required for drought tolerant species, more for species with high water demands. Similarly, rainfall, drainage etc may result in lesser or higher water demands.
- Monitor the irrigation regularly – especially in heavy clay soils where poor drainage can pose a major problem.
- For more information and explanation that informed the preparation of this table see [‘Watering Newly Planted Trees’](#)

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