

THE IMPORTANCE OF FALL WATERING



During the fall season, plants are preparing for winter. The days are shorter, signaling that it's time to drop leaves. Plants are busy storing sugars and other nutrients in their roots to sustain them through winter.

To support plants through this season of transition, make sure they get adequate water until the ground freezes. This is especially important since this last month has been dry, and more important for newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials. Perennials should have four to eight inches of moist soil. Shrubs and trees should have moist soil 10 to 12 inches deep.

Newly planted trees are most susceptible to winter drought injury. Trees generally take one year to establish for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, a two inch caliper tree takes a minimum of two years to establish under normal conditions. As a general survival rule, apply 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree.

Evergreens, such as yews, junipers, rhododendrons and hollies will thrive if they go into winter well hydrated. Flowering trees, shrubs and perennials also tend to be more vibrant in spring if they are well watered before winter.

-facts from Colorado State University