

# Rx



## Relief For Summer Landscapes

A Garden Guide for Residential and Commercial Landscapes



## Save Our Shade

### A Guide to Tree Care in a Dry Climate

- ✿ Tree roots can spread out 2 to 3 times the height of the tree. Water should be applied at the drip line (where the branches end) or beyond when possible.
- ✿ Water deeply and slowly to moisten the soil to a depth of 12 to 18 inches.
- ✿ Apply water to many locations around the drip line.
- ✿ Most of a tree's roots are in the top 24 inches of the soil.

- ✿ Apply water regularly during peak summer months (June, July, and August) in order to minimize or avoid stress:
  - ✓ Water newly planted trees twice a week
  - ✓ Water small trees (1 to 3 inches in diameter) twice a week
  - ✓ Water medium trees (4 to 8 inches in diameter) three times a month
  - ✓ Water large trees (10+ inches in diameter) twice a month
- ✿ Apply between 5 and 10 gallons of water for every one-inch of trunk diameter, measured 4.5 feet from ground. Actual amounts vary with tree species and tree location.

### Notes

- ✿ In cooler weather, water the same amount but increase the number of days between watering.
- ✿ The quantity of water a tree needs will vary with type, age, and location in your garden. Trees exposed to wind or surrounded by concrete may require more water than trees surrounded by mulch or other plants.



## Summer Care for Perennials

- ✿ Water perennials at the drip line and away from the base, to prevent crown rot.
- ✿ Over-head watering encourages leaf spot and other leaf diseases so try to water with soaker hoses or drip lines.
- ✿ Water deeply and slowly to moisten soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches.
- ✿ Newly planted perennials ought to be checked daily, but will typically need water once every 2 to 4 days for the first few weeks.
- ✿ Water needs for established perennials will vary with variety, from once a week to once a month, to only when it's particularly dry.



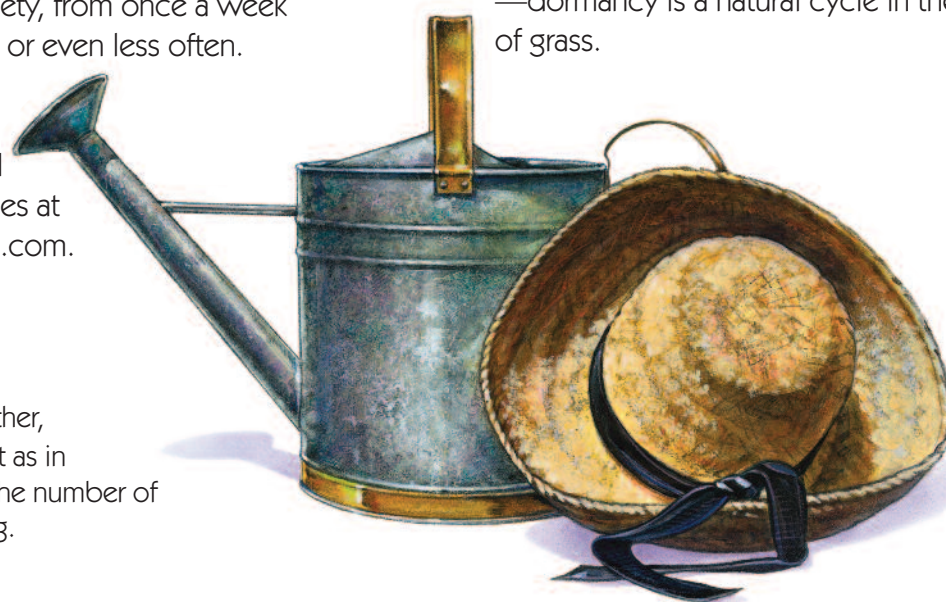
## Summer Care for Shrubs

- ✿ Water shrubs at the drip line, away from the base, to prevent crown rot.
- ✿ Water deeply and slowly to moisten the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches.
- ✿ Apply about 5 gallons of water per foot of plant height each application.
- ✿ Apply water regularly during peak summer months (June, July, and August) in order to minimize or avoid stress, but don't over-water.
- ✿ Check newly planted shrubs daily, and water when soil is dry two inches down.
- ✿ Water needs for established shrubs will vary with variety, from once a week to once a month, or even less often. Check the Salt Lake City Plant List for suggested watering schedules at [www.slcsaveh2o.com](http://www.slcsaveh2o.com).

**Note:** in cooler weather, water the same amount as in summer, but increase the number of days between watering.

## Summer Care for Lawns

- ✿ Only water the lawn when needed; to determine if the soil is moist, plunge a six-inch screw driver into the soil; if you can push it in, the soil is moist.
- ✿ Even during the heat of the summer, your lawn only needs to be watered about twice a week.
- ✿ Break up your watering into several shorter cycles throughout the night; more water will penetrate the soil and less will run off.
- ✿ Cool-season grasses such as Bluegrass may go dormant during the hottest part of the summer. The grass may look golden but will green up as temperatures drop—dormancy is a natural cycle in the life of grass.



## Want to learn more?

Would you like to learn more about how to maintain a healthy, water-wise landscape? Visit our website at [www.slcsaveh2o.com](http://www.slcsaveh2o.com) for more tips, brochures, videos, and suggested readings.

## GardenWise is on the Web!

SLC TV17 **GardenWise** is now available for viewing. **GardenWise** is a TV program about how to have a beautiful, healthy, and low water garden. Got questions? Email us at [gardenwise@slcgov.com](mailto:gardenwise@slcgov.com).

Always use water wisely.



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## Tips for all Garden Plants

- ◆ Mulch to the plant drip line using bark or compost 3 to 4 inches deep.
- ◆ Keep the mulch about 4 to 6 inches away from the base of shrubs and trees.
- ◆ Most desert plants prefer a gravel mulch.
- ◆ Water applied to trees, shrubs, and perennials should be applied at a slower rate than water for grass.
- ◆ Over-watering is just as unhealthy as under-watering because it encourages:
  - ✓ Weeds
  - ✓ Shallow roots
  - ✓ Disease and fungus
  - ✓ Water waste from run-off
- ◆ Check plants for heat-stress in the morning. Usually, drooping leaves in the evening is a survival technique, but limp leaves in the morning is a sign the plant needs water!

## Flower garden looking faded and drab?

Try a few of these summer showoffs



AGASTACHE  
(Licorice Mint)



GAURA  
(Whirling Butterflies)



PEROVSKIA  
(Russian Sage)



ZAUSCHNARIA  
(Hummingbird Plant)