



## Fall: ideal time to plant trees, shrubs and evergreens

Trees contribute a great deal to any and all landscapes - shade, structure, a canopy "ceiling", protection, wildlife habitat - and fall is an excellent time to plant trees. Sunlight is less intense and temperatures are cooler, which reduces transplant stress. The combination of warm soil and cool air stimulates root growth to help your tree or shrub get established before the ground freezes.

Usually there is more rainfall as well, but follow our advice below on watering your new trees, shrubs, evergreens and other perennials as you prepare for the winter months ahead.

Looking for new trees for your landscape? Shop locally-grown trees that will adapt to and perform well in their new surroundings.

### IMPORTANCE OF WATERING TREES, SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS

Despite the abundance of rainfall during summer and fall, your new trees, shrubs and perennials need a healthy dose of water as they prepare for winter. During the first one-two years of your new plants life, setting a regular watering schedule is very important to the health of your plants. The amount of water necessary will vary by plant type, soil type, as well as the current weather. At Cal's Market & Garden Center, we recommend watering about three times per week, more when it is hot and windy.

**FOR SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS:** A soaking with the hose or a watering can for 20-30 seconds is a good rule to follow--just ensure that the water is truly absorbing into the root system and not running off).

**FOR TREES:** Set your hose to a slow trickle and leave at the base of the tree trunk 10-15 minutes. This will allow the root system to thoroughly absorb all the water you are providing. A few trees and shrubs that usually require a little extra water while being established are: birch, dogwood, hydrangea, ninebark, potentilla, snowberry, spirea, willow, winterberry, arborvitae, larch and anything transplanted from a one gallon size pot or smaller. For homeowners with irrigation systems, these systems are meant to provide water to lawns, not trees and shrubs. They generally provide one inch of water per week to your turf, which is not nearly enough to suffice newly planted material, so be sure to supplement your plants with more! For evergreens in particular, supplementing extra water in fall usually leads to a healthier plant the following spring. Be sure to give all your newly planted material a few good soakings before turning your hoses off for winter.



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