



# Water Watering new plants



When you plant a new plant out into the garden you need to look after it for several weeks by making sure it has enough water to survive and grow. Let's look at why, when and how to water new plants.



## Why Water?

Moving to a new home is very stressful for a plant. Air can make roots dry out and a plant lose water. It's really important to water a plant as soon as possible after planting to restore water levels. This first watering also settles the roots in the soil.

## When to Water?

When they are first planted, plants need watering regularly until their roots have grown down into the soil. How much water and how often to apply it depends on the plant and where it is planted. Plants in light sandy soils need watering more often because water easily drains away in these types of soil. Plants in heavy clay soils need watering less often because these soils hold onto water.

## How to Water?

When you water a plant think about how deep its roots go into the soil. If you sprinkle just a small amount of water on the soil surface it won't sink down into the soil far enough to get to most of the roots and the plant won't get enough water.

The best way to water most plants is to give them a long, thorough drink of water that sinks down into the soil and reaches all the roots. Ideally you should water first thing in the morning when it is cooler and the water won't evaporate.

As a general rule, water plants every day for the first 2 weeks after planting, then every 2-3 days for the next 2-3 months. After that you should only need to water in very dry weather.



# Water Watering new plants Quiz



Now test your watering knowhow with our short quiz.

**1. When should you water a plant after you have planted it?**

- a. after one week
- b. as soon as possible
- c. never

**2. Why do plants grown in light sandy soils need watering more often?**

- a. because the soil holds onto lots of water
- b. because water drains quickly through the soil

**3. Why do plants grown in heavy clay soils need watering less often?**

- a. because the soil holds onto lots of water
- b. because water drains quickly through the soil

**4. When is the best time of day to water plants?**

- a. early in the morning when it is still cool
- b. in the middle of the day when it is very hot

**5. Which of these is a good watering method?**

- a. lightly watering the soil surface
- b. long, thorough watering that goes down to the roots

ANSWERS  
1b; 2b; 3a; 4a; 5b