



# Easy Guide to Watering Shrubs

## 1

### Estimate plant water needs

|                       |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Shrub diameter</b> | 1' | 2' | 3' | 4' | 5' | 6' |
| <b>Gallons needed</b> | 1  | 4  | 8  | 12 | 17 | 20 |

shrub diameter



Ground cover and cacti need about half as much water as a shrub of the same diameter.

## 2

### Estimate drip system flow rate

Some drip emitters are stamped with a flow rate.



**1/2 gph**  
Approx 1 second  
between drips



**1 gph**  
Constant  
drips



**2 gph**  
1/2" stream  
before drips



**4 gph**  
1" stream  
before drips

## 3

### Calculate run time



$$\text{Gallons needed (gal)} \div \text{flow rate (gph)} = \text{run time (hrs)}$$

- If you have multiple emitters, add all the flow rates together.
- If you have different size shrubs, start with the average run time and adjust as needed.

## 4

### Adjust watering schedule

|                  |                | Winter             | Spring             | Summer             | Fall               |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Shrubs           | Desert adapted | once every 30 days | once every 14 days | once every 7 days  | once every 14 days |
|                  | High water use | once every 10 days | once every 7 days  | once every 5 days  | once every 7 days  |
| Cacti/Succulents |                | only if needed     | once every 21 days | once every 14 days | once every 21 days |



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