



# Native Plantings How to WATER your Native Plants

You will be watering less, you will be watering deeply and you will have a beautiful garden!

When making the switch to natives from more thirsty plant palettes there are some things to keep in mind to get the best results:

- Soil type
- location
- microclimate

Get to know how long your soil holds moisture by checking six to eight inches below the surface between waterings. Allow the excess moisture in the soil to drain completely,

but irrigate again before it becomes fully dry! California native plants are perfectly adapted to our arid climate and can withstand extended periods of heat and drought. However, like all nursery stock, container grown California native plants need careful attention and regular water during their establishment period in the landscape. After about three months of regular water, you can begin to taper the watering regime. Your microclimate and plant choice will ultimately determine your final supplemental irrigation needs.

For a 1 gallon plant, a very general guideline to follow for watering would be:

First 1-3 months	1x per week
3-24 months	1-2x per month (some species will still need 4x)
24+ months	some plants will naturalize (no supplemental)/ others will continue to need supplemental irrigation outside of their natural habitat



## **Do:**

- \* water in the early morning when the soil is coolest
- \* thoroughly soak the soil, do so with lower application rates over a longer durations
- \* water in anticipation of heat events not during, watch the forecast
- \* check your irrigation system's accuracy and effectiveness more than once
- \* plant in fall when establishing and watering plants is easier, if summer is a must see our summer water handout
- \* for established plants every 3 weeks in the summer (dependent on soil type) can help refresh plantings as well as an occasional quick rinse early in the day
- \* choose plants that can tolerate your soil type and microclimate and watering will be easier

## **Do not:**

- \* water in the heat of the day
- \* water frequently for short durations