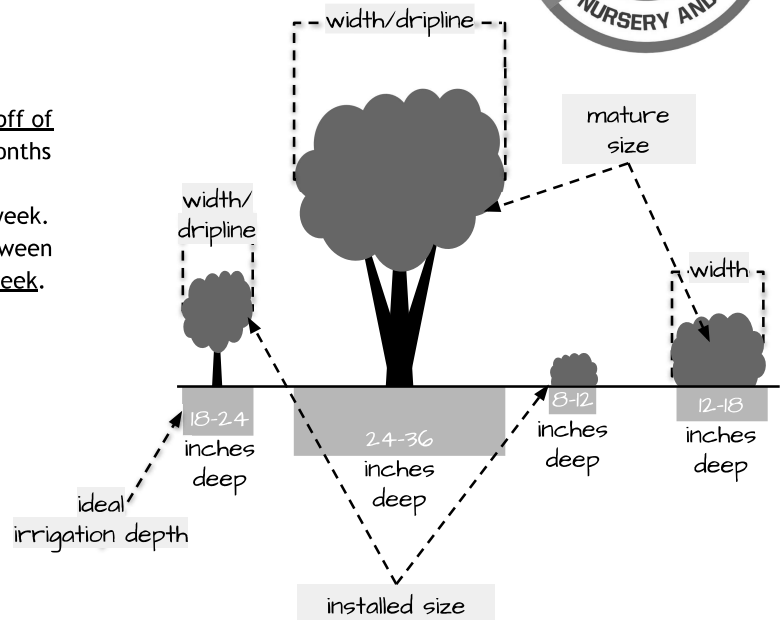


# How to Irrigate Established Plant Life



## 1. Irrigate Deep Into the Soil

1. Newly installed plant life needs to be weaned off of daily irrigation over the course of about 2 months (8 weeks) after having been planted.
2. Basically, irrigate every day on the first week. Every week after that, add 1 day in between irrigation cycles until only watering once per week.
3. Irrigation depths may change as plants grow:
  - a. Trees 2-3 feet deep
  - b. Large Shrubs 1.5-2 feet deep
  - c. Small Shrubs 1-1.5 feet deep
  - d. Groundcovers & Vines 1-1.5 feet deep
  - e. Grass 1-1.5 feet deep
  - f. Cactus & Succulents 1-1.5 feet deep



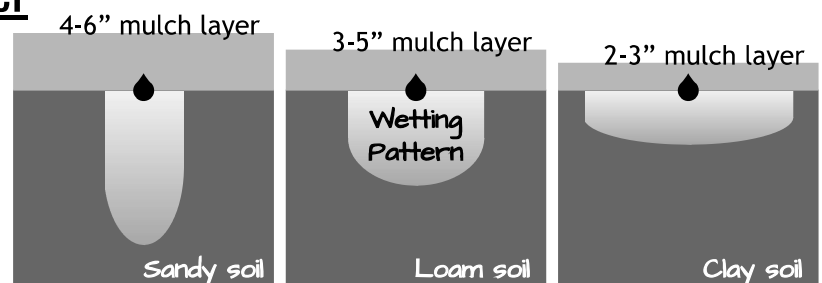
## 2. Apply Water Infrequently

1. For recommended irrigation depths & rates, visit [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com) or search online for the Arizona Landscape Watering Guidelines produced by Water Use It Wisely.
2. Water should ideally be distributed by dedicated valves which operate emitters for reasonably matched irrigation needs. Generally put, irrigate:
  - a. Low Water Trees every 2 weeks in Summer & Monthly in Winter
  - b. High Water Trees every week in Summer & twice per Month in Winter
  - c. Low Water Large Shrubs every 2 weeks in Summer & Monthly in Winter
  - d. High Water Large Shrubs every week in Summer & twice per Month in Winter
  - e. Low Water Small Shrubs every 2 weeks in Summer & Monthly in Winter
  - f. High Water Small Shrubs every week in Summer & every 2 weeks in Winter
  - g. Low Water Groundcovers & Vines every 2 weeks in Summer & Monthly in Winter
  - h. High Water Groundcovers & Vines every 5 days in Summer & every 2 weeks in Winter
  - i. Grass see the Arizona Landscape Watering Guidelines produced by Water Use It Wisely
  - j. Cactus & Succulents every 2 weeks in Summer & little to none in Winter.



## 3. Keep An Adequate Mulch Layer

1. Sandy soils should have ~4-6 inches of mulch on top of the soil.
2. Loam soils should have ~3-5 inches of mulch on top of the soil.
3. Clay soils should have ~2-3 inches of mulch on top of the soil.
4. Can be rocks, wood chips, etc, but must be where the roots are & will next grow.



5. Know your own soil type(s). Sandy soils drain very well, loam soils drain pretty well, & clay soils drain poorly. This is why they have different wetting patterns. Water sinks further & faster in better draining soils, but more narrowly, too.

### Notes regarding irrigation & related horticultural best practices:

1. **Gypsum** (Calcium Sulfate anhydrous) can be useful to so as to facilitate deep drainage in compacted clay soils.
2. **Irrigate deeply & infrequently** so as to allow the top soil to dry, while the deeper soil & thus roots, are happily in moisture below.
3. A **Water Well** or circular berm can help to pool & focus the water atop the roots, but should still have rock mulch &/or smaller plants in it.
4. **Cycle Soaking** can help to irrigate deeply while preventing excessive irrigation runoff, & especially when used with a **Water Well**.