

WATERING TIP: Make sure you're watering your plants deeply. Plants that were installed this year, need 1" of water weekly. You can set a few cans in the border when watering to check the amount applied or dig down a few inches 30 minutes after watering to see how deep the water has penetrated. A good 6" is ideal (an inexpensive water meter is helpful). Be sure to water deeply around and away from the center of the plant (a 30" watering wand is a perfect tool for this). You want the plant to be "reaching out" to find water. New gardeners are often surprised to find that what they considered a good soaking is only wetting the soil to a depth of an inch or so. If plants aren't watered deeply, they can turn out quite well but will be very shallow rooted. Subsequently, the plants can be hurt if a few days of watering are skipped, and the top of the soil becomes dry. It's far better to strengthen your plants by deep watering when needed. This will make borders self-sufficient—exactly what perennial gardeners have in mind.