

## Winter Watering Tips



shutterstock.com · 787596766



Happy New Year to you and yours. It sure has been a warm and dry winter. This month I would like to share tips watering your landscape in the drought conditions we are experiencing.

Even though it's winter and your plants might look dead, you don't want your plants or turf to dry out. The roots are still alive under the soil and need water for hydration, but also for insulation. You'll want to:

- ❖ Water only when temps rise above 45 degrees or above before a freeze.
- ❖ Be sure your irrigation control or timer is turned off when a freeze is expected.
- ❖ Irrigate earlier in the day when plants are more likely to absorb water.
- ❖ Water when there hasn't been a recent rain, snow or sleet.

Overwatering can be harmful. Typically, once or twice a month is sufficient if you haven't received any atmospheric moisture. It is also important when watering in the winter that you avoid getting water on the leaves of plants and try to water lawns at a time that will allow drying before night so that you don't potentially get ice and burn the plant.

Mulch is also very helpful in flower beds. A four inch layer of mulch is recommended and acts like a blanket for plant roots. It also helps hold moisture so if you have mulched your beds you likely don't need to water more than every other month if there has not been atmospheric moisture.

I hope you find these tips helpful and as always, please call if you have any questions.

Megan Eikner

CEA – Ag/NR

806-373-0713