



*An educational resource provided by Advance HOA Management, Inc.*

### ***Tips for Winter Watering***

With the persistent dry conditions and warmer weather predicted to continue into next week, now is the time to winter water. Below are some quick guidelines provided by a local landscape company.

- Use a hose and hose bib if you have an irrigation system that has been winterized.
- Water only when air temperatures are above 40 degrees F.
- Apply water at mid-day so it will have time to soak in before possible freezing at night.
- A solid layer (persisting for more than a month) of ice on lawns can cause suffocation or result in matting of the grass.
- Plants receiving reflected heat from buildings, walls and fences are more subject to damage.
- The low angle of winter sun makes this more likely on south or west exposures.
- Windy sites result in faster drying of sod and plants and require additional water.
- Lawns in warm exposures are prone to late winter mite damage. Water is the best treatment to prevent turf injury
- Monitor weather conditions and water during extended dry periods without snow cover – one to two times per month.

Trees obtain water best when it is allowed to soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. Methods of watering trees include: sprinklers, deep-root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. Apply water to many locations under the dripline and beyond if possible. If using a deep-root fork or needle, insert no deeper than 8 inches into the soil. As a general survival rule, apply 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch of the tree. For example, a two-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter at 6" above ground level.

Newly planted shrubs require more water than established shrubs that have been planted for at least one year. The following recommendations assume shrubs are mulched to retain moisture. In dry winters, all shrubs benefit from winter watering from October through March. Apply 5 gallons two times per month for a newly planted shrub. Small established shrubs (less than 3 feet tall) should receive 5 gallons monthly. Large established shrubs (more than 6 feet) require 18 gallons on a monthly basis. Decrease amounts to account for precipitation. Water within the dripline of the shrub and around the base.

The next page has additional information also provided by a local landscape company.