



Landscape Services

Safety Standard Operating Procedure

(Revised 6/2023)

Watering of Seasonal Color

This SSOP provides guidance on the safe watering of seasonal color. As with any equipment or tools, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual produced by the manufacturer.

Safety

PPE Required for Installation of Pavers:	Gloves, sturdy footwear
Scheduled:	Immediately upon planting of new material
Watering Materials Needed:	Water wagon, soil probe, watering wand or watering probe
Safety Hazards:	Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, lifting, bending, noise, equipment malfunction, hot or cold temperatures and inclement weather.

Inspection of Plant Material

1. Inspect the watering list to determine the planting beds or planters around campus that need to be inspected and watered for the day.
2. Identify high priority annual planting beds or planters and ensure that these are inspected daily.
3. When inspecting the annuals for watering needs, it is important to probe the planting bed or planter first.
 - a. Inspecting the soil in the planting bed or planter before watering allows you to identify whether the annuals need water or if it is still wet from the previous watering.
4. When you pull your core, inspect the soil by not only visual but by placing the plug in your hands and squeezing the soil together in your palm.
 - a. If the soil is spongy or tacky and can form a mud ball, the soil moisture content is relatively high.
 - b. If the soil feels dry or cannot form a ball when squeezing it in your hand, then moisture content is on the dry side.
5. Based on soil moisture contents, follow the steps below accordingly.
 - a. If the soil moisture content is sufficient, inspect the planting beds or planters visually to verify the overall health of the annuals.
 - i. Look at the crowns of the annual to ensure that no cotton mulch has reached the crown of the annual.
 1. If cotton mulch and water are present at the base of the stem, pull it away. This can lead to crown rot if not caught early.
 - ii. Look at the leaves to see if there is any curling or drooping of the leaves.

1. If the leaves are drooping, identify whether the annual has a need for water.

Watering of Plant Material

1. After completing the soil and visual inspection of the planting beds or planters, remove the hose from the water wagon.
2. Attach the hose wand to the hose.
3. Water the planting beds or planters thoroughly to ensure that we are getting water to a depth six inches.
 - a. Hose Wand Method
 - i. Water at the annuals for thirty to forty-five seconds.
 1. Try to avoid watering the leaves of the plant as this can potentially lead to plant damage (leaf scorch) or leaf fungal issues.
4. If mulch was disturbed when watering, use your fingers to rake the mulch back to cover soil. Ensure that the planting beds or planters are left clean upon completion.
5. Load the hose and wand and move on to the next planting beds or planter.