



WINTER WATERING TIPS

All you have to do is read, listen, or watch the news lately - it's been a weird winter! It's been both dry and unseasonably warm. And that's concerning. As of February 5, 2026, 72% of the state is in drought. Dry, warm conditions have worsened along the Front Range, with increased moderate drought and abnormally dry conditions. Snowpack levels are below average and are among the lowest on record in Colorado.

Shrubs, Perennials and Trees

To help your garden cope, water shrubs, perennials, and recently planted trees. Some plants have started to leaf out. While not ideal, most trees and shrubs have secondary leaf buds in reserve in case the first ones freeze. Spring-blooming trees and shrubs don't have reserve flower buds. Water when it's above 40 degrees. Midday watering is best when it's warm and before any potential freezing at night. With any prolonged dry weather, water once or twice a month. And don't forget to unhook your garden hose!

Don't Water the Lawn

Don't worry about your lawn. It's dormant. Don't water it. Dry turf at this moment is actually detrimental to those nasty Japanese beetle grubs feeding on the grass roots.

Gardening Indoors

Spring-like weather is frustrating to gardeners who'd like to plant something. Channel that energy into your indoor activities. You can still take cuttings of plants you brought inside last fall, such as geraniums, sweet potato vines, or Mizou ice plants. Use a rooting hormone brushed on the lower stem to help them take root. If you successfully rooted cuttings in the fall, you can move them to larger pots to accommodate the roots. Pinch out growth tips, which encourage them to bush out, and they'll be ready to plant outside in May! Yes! Spring is just a few weeks away! Stay tuned for more watering and xeriscaping tips from the Landscape Committee as we prepare for a potentially challenging summer watering season if drought and snowpack conditions worsen.

Sources:

Proctor's Garden: Winter Watering Tips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EdzMyUtDec>

Proctor's Garden: Coping with Weird Winter Weather: <https://www.9news.com/video/life/home-garden/proctors-tips/coping-with-weird-winter-weather/73-eb20b4e5-34b3-40de-898a-4b07d2e3e487>

<https://coloradowaterwise.org/>

<https://coloradosun.com/2026/01/16/front-range-drought-keeping-plants-healthy/>