

GARDENING

Keep your thirsty plants watered during heat wave



Typically the weather in June and early July is warm with an occasional hot day. This year is not typical. In an average year, by the time hot weather arrives, at the end of July and August the vegetables and annuals have developed a good sized root system allowing them to access moisture from a larger area.

With record breaking hot weather early in the season it is very important to keep plants new or established watered.

The most efficient way to water is to loosen the soil around the plant and then use a low sprinkler or soaker hose for 30 minutes to an hour. Stop watering if the water starts to puddle as a crust is forming on the soil making it harder for the water to sink below the surface. Allow the puddle to dissipate before watering again.

Annuals with their small root structure need to be watered more often than perennials, trees and shrubs. In hot weather, annuals in a bed might need to be watered daily. If

in doubt, dig a hole in the soil to the same depth as the roots to determine the moisture level.

Established perennials have a large root system and should be watered less often for a longer period of time. Plants have different water requirements but the average amount of moisture needed is 1 inch (2.5 cm) a week. Placing mulch on the bed to keep in moisture will mean less watering.

Trees and shrubs that have been planted more than one season have many roots located in the plant's drip line in the top 12 inches (30 cm) of soil. Before the plants show signs of stress, place a soaker hose or sprinkler around the dripline and soak the soil.

Pots and baskets that are overflowing with plants need to be watered every day, every other day or in extreme cases twice a day. How often to water depends on the size and location of the pot. Small pots contain little soil with little water holding capacity and need watered frequently.

Lawn grass loves water. To keep it vibrantly green it needs at least one inch (2.54 cm) of water a week during the hot growing season. When lawn grass does not receive enough water it goes dormant and turns brown. When the weather turns cool and rain re-



Trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetables or sod that has been planted this season need to be watered on a regular basis. File photo by (Black Press news services)

turns, the grass breaks dormancy and becomes green.

Trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetables or sod that has been planted this season need to be watered on a regular basis. Watering deeply and less frequently encourages plants to put down deep root systems. The larger and deeper the root system the less likely the plant will be affected by hot

dry weather. If possible water in the early evening or late afternoon to prevent water evaporating before it soaks into the ground.

Linda Tomlinson has gardened in central Alberta for over 30 years. She can be reached at your_garden@hotmail.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Older women are the fresh faces of South Korean influencers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The freshest faces among South Korean influencers are no longer the usual, 20-something celebrities. Instead, entertainment and social media are focusing on a new generation: the elder generation.

Older women were once invisible in South Korean entertainment as the industry stuck to rigidly conservative traditional female roles and cast them only as devoted mothers.

But older women are front and center in recent advertising and entertainment series.

A pioneer in the trend is Oscar winner Youn Yuh-jung, the 74-year-old "Minari" actor who promotes Oriental Brewery beer and the Zig Zag shopping app in two recent ad campaigns.

The beer video highlights the novelty of its spokesperson, who says: "For someone like me to be on a beer ad, the world has gotten so much better." With a Cass beer in her hand, Youn says she makes friends by being her authentic self and alludes to the beer helping people to dissipate their social awkwardness.

South Korean producer Kim Sehee said Youn's Oscar win earlier this year inspired his entertainment se-

ries, "Wassup K-Grandma." He said South Korean young people have a new interest in their elders, birthing a new word "harmaenial" — a portmanteau of the South Korean word "harmoni," or grandmother, and the English word "millennial."

The series broadcast in May was one of the first Korean shows to feature grandmothers as main characters, according to Kim. It brought international guests to live as temporary sons-in-law with Korean grandmothers. The color of the series came from the grandmothers' attempts to communicate with their foreign in-laws and share homemade meals and decades-old ginseng alcohol.

Park Makrye, a popular South Korean YouTuber, said the country's attitude towards gender and age has been rapidly changing.

"Back in the days, people thought women were supposed to be only housewives cooking at home but that's once upon a time. People must adapt to the current era," she said.

Park, 74, is one of the leading lights in the South Korean frenzy. Her YouTube channel "Korea Grandma" has over 1.32 million subscribers. In her videos, Park throws expletives while reviewing a Korean drama and screams her lungs out while paragliding for the first time.

Park's success has paved the way for others. Jang Myung-sook gives out fashion and lifestyles tips on her channel "Milanonna," a nonagenarian known as Grandma "Gganzi" raps and shares personal stories.

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