



## Topic: Royal Poinciana Transplants

**Q:** We just planted two royal poinciana trees 5 feet tall with thumb-sized trunks. We dug holes and mixed the sandy soil with cow manure and mulched. What is a good schedule for watering these new transplants?

**A:** How much and how often one needs to water to establish a newly planted tree depends on the soil type. In local unamended soils, daily irrigation for two weeks, then every other day for a month, and weekly thereafter as needed is the usual recommendation. However, a soil amended with cow manure, will hold more water than an unamended soil. This could cause unintended overwatering and the roots of the trees to rot. Consequently, irrigate to keep the soil moist but not water saturated. When properly done, it should be difficult to squeeze water out of the soil, four to six hours later. Trees should be planted without organic amendments to the planting holes. For in time, the cow manure will be consumed from the soil leaving a void that will sink the roots and the trees deeper into the soil. In some rare cases, this could have a negative effect on a fledging tree.

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at (239) 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by sending an email to [brownsh@leegov.com](mailto:brownsh@leegov.com) 12/31/2011