

General Maintenance Watering Guide

Extensive green roof systems



Watering Guide

Bauder green roof extensive systems

The following is a simple guide for the requirements of the initial establishment watering (directly after installation) and long-term watering or irrigation for a Bauder extensive green roof system.

All green roofs require water at installation and in hot, dry weather.

Establishment Watering

All green roofs require some form of establishment watering which should continue until the plants have developed a sound root system. Establishment watering critically needs a fully operational rooftop water supply with adequate pressure and flow rate at the point where watering is delivered. This watering should be via surface sprinklers or on small roofs a hose with a fine rose. This must be carried out even when an irrigation system has been fitted that will come into operation at a later stage. In warm weather, watering should take place in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.

Bauder Flora Mixes / Wildflower Plugs / WB Native Wildflower Blanket

Bauder recommend that seeded and plug planted areas are installed in the spring and autumn months when there is usually milder weather, moderate temperatures, and likelihood of regular rainfall. Seed and plugs are very difficult to establish in mid-summer and do not grow in mid-winter.

Seed & Plugs: Water for 10-12 weeks after installation.

Bauder Wildflower Plugs should be saturated completely prior to planting. Seeded roofs should not be watered until seed has germinated - for more information see Bauder Green Roof Installation Guide.

WB Native Wildflower Blanket: Water for 6-8 weeks after installation.

Ensure the substrate remains damp to the touch by watering regularly. In mid-summer, the roof may need daily, watering and will have to be constantly monitored.

Bauder XF301 / Bauder SB Substrate Sedum Blanket / Sedum Plugs

Sedum is quite drought resistant but only once it has fully established.

XF301/Bauder SB Substrate Sedum Blanket: Water for 4-6 weeks after installation.

Sedum Plugs: Water for 10-12 weeks after installation.

Ensure the substrate remains damp to the touch by watering regularly. In mid-summer, the roof may need daily, watering and will have to be constantly monitored.

Note: Sedum turns red when stressed through lack of water.

Bauder recommend that sedum plug planted areas are installed only in the spring and autumn months when there is usually milder weather, moderate temperatures, and likelihood of regular rainfall.

Key points for installation:

- Ensure all other roof works are completed before the green roof is installed.
- Test the watering system prior to the delivery of the vegetation, ensure there is a working water source at roof level with sufficient pressure at the point of watering.
- Do not try to install living vegetation in hot, sunny weather.
- Install any vegetation on the day it is delivered (See Bauder's Green Roof Installation Guide).
- Ensure the vegetation blankets are laid carefully and additional substrate is used to patch any open joints.

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- Water in the vegetation (even in winter) and fertilise if required (with Bauder Organic Fertiliser).
- Watering should take place in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- Avoid any trafficking of the roof.
- Avoid any storage of materials on the roof.
- Continue to water the roof as required for the whole establishment period.

Long Term Watering / Irrigation

This advice is for green roofs after their initial establishment is complete. Roofs are hostile environments for all plants. There is an increase in wind at higher levels and the reduced depth of substrate can dry out quickly when surrounded by a warm building. The perimeter of a planting area is more prone to drying than the centre.

ALL green roofs will require watering in times of drought.

Generally watering is best carried out in the early morning or later evening (irrigation should be set to come on at night).

Bauder Flora Mixes / Wildflower Plugs / WB Native Wildflower Blanket

The British Native species are not as drought tolerant as sedum. The depth of growing medium (substrate) means the plants struggle to retain enough water in very dry weather. Watering should be carried out regularly as the weather dictates, typically in the summer months this would involve watering after one or two weeks without rainfall.

Watering is likely to prolong the flowering season for many species.

Ideally monitor the appearance of the roof along with the local weather forecast. When watering, water until the substrate is soaked, and the drainage board is full of water. The roof can be left for a further 1-2 weeks before it will need watering again.

Note: Overwatering will produce a lush, thick green roof covering which can choke other species, underwatering will increase the speed in which plants flower and go to seed or brown off.

Bauder XF301 / Bauder SB Substrate Sedum Blanket / Sedum Plugs

Sedum is a very drought resistant plant and will survive even quite long periods of drought, however it will benefit from the occasional soaking i.e. in prolonged hot, dry weather (2-3 weeks without rain in the summer months).

Note: Sedum turns red when stressed through lack of water.

Advise: Water heavily once every week, water the sedum until the vegetation and substrate are total soaked.

Note: Overwatering will encourage grass and weed species to establish, underwatering will shrink the sedum plants enabling erosion of the exposed substrate.

This guide assumes: Summer months are April to October. Winter Months: November to March. Whilst generally summer months are hotter and drier, common sense should dictate when the weather is particularly severe for the time of year.

More comprehensive details are contained in the Watering Requirement Guidelines, which include details of irrigation.