



Please keep these tree care instructions handy, as you will want them when your tree is planted.

Tree Watering

Tree watering is a key part of tree care and it is difficult to recommend an exact amount due to the varieties of climates. These few guidelines will help you to water your trees properly.

- **Watering Newly Planted Trees:** For new trees, water immediately after you plant a tree.
- **Watering Trees During First Two Years:** During the first couple of growing seasons, your newly planted tree is expending a lot of energy trying to get its roots established in the soil. Especially during the first few summers of your new tree's life, it will have a difficult time dealing with heat and drought. You can make this easier by providing water and covering the soil with wood-chip mulch. Deep watering can help speed the root establishment. Deep water consists of keeping the soil moist to a depth that includes all the roots.
- **How Much Water and When:** Not enough water is harmful for the tree but too much water is bad as well. Over-watering is a common tree care mistake. Please note that moist is different than soggy, and you can judge this by feel. A damp soil that dries for a short period will allow adequate oxygen to permeate the soil.

As general rule, your soil should be moist. Usually 30 seconds with a steady stream of water from a garden hose w/ a diffuser nozzle per tree seedling is sufficient. Mulching is also key in retaining moisture in the soil.

You can check soil moisture by using a garden trowel and inserting it into the ground to a depth of 2", and moving the blade of the trowel back and forth to create a small, narrow trench. Then, use your finger to touch the soil. If it is moist to the touch, then they do not need water.

- **Watering Trees After the First Two Years:** After your tree has been established in your yard for two years, the roots will be established. This will allow your tree to withstand a wider range of water conditions on its own because it has a proper root structure.

The Importance of Mulching

A newly planted tree's best friend is mulch. It is very important to remember to mulch your tree after you have planted it.

Mulch is valuable for your trees health and care because:

- Mulch insulates the soil helping to provide a buffer from heat and cold temperatures.
- Mulch retains water helping to keep the roots moist.
- Mulch keeps weeds out to help prevent root competition.
- Mulch prevents soil compaction.
- Mulch reduces lawn mower damage.



Steps to Adding Mulch Around Your Tree

1. Add mulch to the base of your tree by removing any grass within a 3 to 10 foot area depending on the size of your tree.
2. Pour natural mulch such as wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches deep within the circle.
3. Keep the mulch from touching the trunk of the tree.

If you have further questions regarding the care of your newly planted tree, please contact the Park Division at 262-653-4080 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Congratulations on your new tree!

Dirk Nelson
City Forester