

Tree Care Guide

Keep your newly planted trees healthy!

WATERING

A good general rule is that newly transplanted trees need an inch of water every week to 10 days.

- A 5-gallon container grown tree will need roughly 5-15 gallons of water per week for first 2 years.
- Slow soaking is preferable to a heavy quick watering.
- Water your trees from the spring thaw until the ground freezes—if it's not frozen, it's thirsty.



MULCHING

Mulch conserves more soil moisture, moderates extreme temperature changes, prevents soil compaction, reduces competition with turf grass, and helps prevent mechanical injury from mowers and string trimmers.

- Donut, not volcano (no mulch directly against trunk).
- 2 to 4 inches of organic mulch around tree.
- Broader area = more effective.



PRUNING

Pruning at planting is only necessary if branches are crowded, rubbing, weak, or damaged.

- Limit to corrective pruning at time of planting.

STAKING

Staking at planting is not always necessary.

- Assess structure & environmental conditions.
- Staking materials should be broad, smooth & flexible.



FERTILIZING

Fertilizing a tree is generally not recommended unless you know the soil is deficient in certain essential minerals.

PROTECTION

Prevent damage from wildlife and machinery.

- Fencing or tree guards.
- Tree wraps tend to be problematic.



Tree Hydration Tracker

Mark off a bucket each time you water your tree

Year 1	Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4	
April								
May								
June								
July								
Aug.								
Sept.								
Oct.								

Year 2	Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4	
April								
May								
June								
July								
Aug.								
Sept.								
Oct.								