

Watering Guidelines



How much and how often to water your tree depends on the weather and the type of soil in your yard. But here are some general guidelines for your newly planted tree:

Watering schedule (5 gallons at each watering):

Month 1: twice a week

Month 2-6: once a week

Months 7-24: once every two weeks

Years 3-5: once every four to six weeks*

*the tree will need more than 5 gallons per watering as it grows

However, always check the soil for moisture about four inches down before watering. If it's really wet, don't water, even though the schedule says so.

Begin watering in early spring and continue until late November.

It's very important to water slowly so that the water seeps into the ground at the base of the tree. Here are a few options for watering your tree:

- Run the hose at a slow trickle (about the width of your pinky finger) for about 20 minutes.
- Cut a small hole (less than half an inch) into the bottom of one or two milk jugs or buckets. Place next to the tree and fill with water (5 gallons total).
- Slowly pour water from a watering can, waiting for the water to seep into the ground (5 gallons total). It takes a long time but it works!

Tree Care Basics



Mulch: Maintain a layer of mulch (such as wood chips or shredded leaves) 2 to 3 inches deep around the base of the tree. Pull the mulch away from the trunk so it does not touch the bark.

Trunk protection: It is important to protect the trunk of a young tree from damage by rabbits and mice, especially from fall to early spring. Possibilities include tubing, wire mesh, and a do-it-yourself tree guard made from a plastic pot. Cut the bottom off the pot and place the remaining ring around the tree, burying it slightly.

Pruning: Unless your tree has broken or dead branches, it is rarely necessary to prune during the first two years. As the tree grows, pruning is often needed to improve structure, combat disease and pest problems, and remove decaying branches. Contact a certified arborist for assistance in pruning a large tree. The Urban Tree Alliance can teach you how to prune small trees yourself - we periodically hold free pruning workshops!

Please feel free to contact us with questions or comments:

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