

CARING FOR NEW TREES



Newly-planted trees need care, especially in the first two to three years after planting.

Read on to find out how to care for newly-planted trees.



↑ Slow watering with a hose

WATERING

New trees need lots of water. Watering with a garden hose at low volume or utilizing a soaker hose is ideal since it allows water to slowly infiltrate the soil. Less frequent, but thorough watering is more beneficial to root development than frequent shallow watering.

Tree roots need oxygen. Over-watering is just as problematic as under-watering. Test the soil moisture by using a trowel to dig two inches into the soil. Use your fingers to feel the soil in the small trench you created. If it is dry, it is time to water. You can use a hose at the base of the tree, with water on low or purchase watering bags that you fill for a slow soaking.



↑ A watering bag placed around its own stake. Bags can also be placed around the trunk, but be sure to monitor the trunk for moisture and insect problems.

It is hard to say exactly how much to water your tree, but 15 gallons once per week is a good starting place for trees that are approximately 1.5 inches in caliper. If your tree is larger than that, or if the weather is hot and dry, increase the amount of water or water twice a

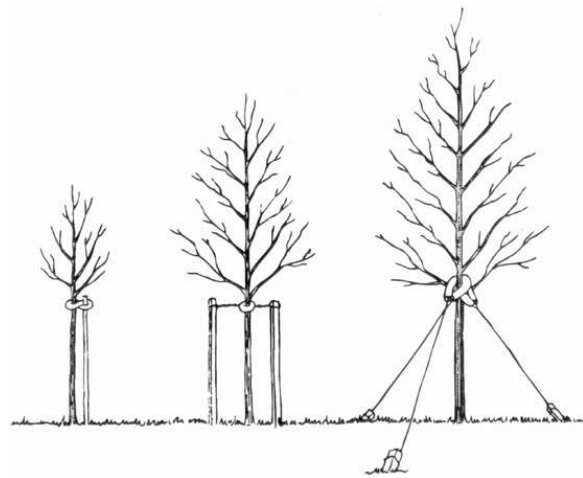
week. Water your tree for the first two years after planting. Begin watering when the ground thaws and until the ground freezes.

What about lawn sprinklers and rainfall?

Lawn sprinklers do not provide the deep watering that trees need. Natural rainfall often isn't enough.

TREE STABILIZATION

Tree stabilization may be necessary in windy areas or for trees without an adequate root system. Tree stabilization may consist of stakes, guys, and other materials. Here we describe a method using stakes, but there are a variety of systems out there, with varying costs and amounts of labor required. If you are using stakes, use 2 to 3 stakes, placed just inside the edge of the mulch ring and wide nylon or canvas straps, tied loosely around the trunk. For an unstable root ball, use 1-3 stakes attached low on the trunk. Remove all stakes after 1 year.



↑ Staking techniques, ISA, bugwood.org

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