



Urban Forestry



Save Our Water
and Our Trees!
saveourwater.com/trees

Water-Wise Young Landscape Tree Care

Help your trees through the drought.

Benefits of Trees

- Trees provide many benefits and cannot be easily replaced.
- Trees provide tremendous benefits in terms of better air quality, reduced storm water runoff, energy savings, and better quality of life.

Trees and Drought

- If planting trees during a drought, only do so during the cooler months, not during summer months.
- Do not trim trees during drought if possible. Wounding of trees creates additional stress.
- Water trees with grey water or recycled water if possible. Make certain there are not non-biodegradable detergents or other harmful chemicals in the grey water.

Guidelines for Irrigating Young Trees During a Drought

- Only water on days permitted by your local water agency, and then only in the early morning or late evening.
- Young trees (from planting until 3 years old) require more frequent watering than established trees.
- Provide a watering basin roughly 4 to 5 feet in diameter around the base of the tree. This can be done by creating a mound of soil around the trunk.
- Place a layer of mulch 4 to 6 inches deep extending to the drip line of the tree to help retain soil moisture and conserve water.
- Keep mulch at least 2 to 3 inches away from the tree trunk. The mulch ring should appear donut-shaped. Rocks, gravel and rubber mulch are discouraged around trees because they raise the temperature of the soil, which causes problems for the roots.
- The amount and frequency of watering will vary by tree species and weather.
- When watering trees use 5 gallons of water 2 to 4 times per week, depending on the soil (sandy soil needs more frequent watering, clay soil less frequent).



Guidelines continued...

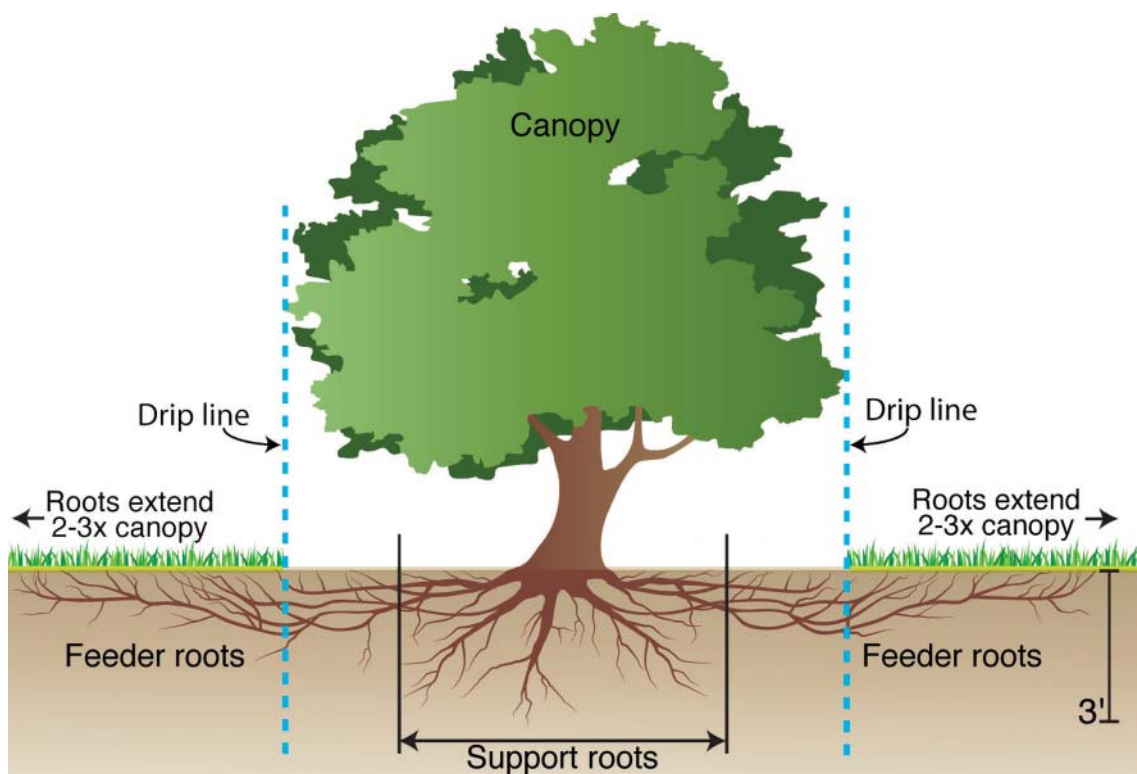
If you have an automatic irrigation system, remember to check for leaks and/or breaks at least once a week. If possible, use separate irrigation zones/valves for trees than zones/valves for lawns and shrubs.

Hand-Watering Options



- Fill a bucket with water and apply slowly.
- Place a soaker hose in a spiral pattern outward from around the base of the tree. Do not fill your tree basin to the point of overflowing.
- Use a slow stream of water from a regular hose for an extended period. Do not fill your tree basin to the point of overflowing. You can use a wind-up faucet timer on your hose bib to control the run time.
- Check the soil by plunging a long screwdriver or

similar tool into the soil. The soil should be moist to at least 18 inches deep, but not soggy. The majority of absorbing roots are within the first 3 feet of soil.



For a list of resources about landscape water use, go to www.saveourwater.com/trees