



Tree Watering Regimen for Newly Planted Trees

The best method for watering a tree is to ensure the roots get plenty of water, thus apply water to the entire root zone, not just at trunk. Water slowly and evenly across the root zone. Irrigation systems or a watering bag (e.g., 20 gallon watering bag) are helpful. Make sure the soil is damp and not soggy. Please refer to Watering Bag Instructions (Appendix 1D) for guidance on watering bag usage.

1 water application = 20 gallons of water slowly applied to root zone

Scheduled watering should take place at time of planting, and for three years after installation:

- **Planting Day:** Tree needs to be watered immediately.
- **Year 1:** Water tree once a week. Enough water should be applied, so the tree receives the equivalent of one (1) inch of rainfall weekly* when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) or above**. The watering schedule should start approximately in May and conclude in October.
- **Year 2:** Water tree every other week from May through October, or when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) and above.
- **Year 3:** Water tree once a month from May through October, or when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) and above.

**If a rainfall event produces one (1) inch or more of rainfall, there is no need to water trees. Over watering can damage trees. One can test the soil moisture levels adjacent to the root zone by digging at a depth of two (2) inches, and then feel for moisture.*

***Adjust timing of watering start and/or end dates based on current temperatures experienced.*

Helpful Links:

MSD Rain Gauges: http://www.msdlouky.org/aboutmsd/rainfall_query.cfm

Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/tips/watering.cfm>

Trees are Good: <http://www.treesaregood.com/> or
http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/New_TreePlanting.pdf