



Tree Watering Regimen for Newly Planted Trees

The best method for watering a tree is to ensure that the root zone of the tree gets plenty of access to water, thus apply water to the entire root zone, not just at the trunk. Water slowly and evenly across the root zone. Irrigation systems or a water bag (e.g., 20 gallon watering bag) are helpful. Make sure the soil is damp and not soggy.

Scheduled watering should take place at the time of planting, and for the next three years after the tree is planted.

- At time of planting: After a tree has been properly planted, it needs to be watered immediately.
- Year 1: The first year that the tree is in the ground, it needs to be watered once a week. Enough water should be applied so that the tree receives the equivalent of one (1) inch of rainfall weekly* when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) and above**. The watering schedule should start approximately in May and conclude in October as the trees enter into dormancy for the winter months.
- Year 2: Water the tree every other week from May through October, or when temperatures are in the high 70s (°F) and above.
- Year 3: Water the 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 the tree. Over watering can damage the tree. 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 if hot weather starts or ends early.*

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