



TREE CARE

WATER, WATER, WATER all year long. Water is the most important thing you do for your tree. As long as plants are alive they need water, even in the winter when they are dormant. Although a plant is leafless, its roots are growing in preparation for the following spring.

Now, you ask, “How much and how often do I need to water my tree?” No one can tell you exactly how much or how often because the answer is that your tree’s water requirements depend on your soil. Sandy soils drain quickly and will need more water than clay soils. Clay soils retain water longer. **Only you** can determine your soil moisture level. So you must test for soil moisture before you water until you get a feel for how quickly the water is absorbed.

Here are a few recommendations:

1. Create a watering basin around your tree out of soil or a circle of mulch. This will help direct water to the roots.
2. **After planting, water the tree thoroughly and deeply. Then for the next few days, test the soil moisture level before watering again. When we say “test”, we mean go about 12 inches or so away from the trunk and with a stick or small trowel, go down about 12 inches or more and with your hand, form a ball with the soil. If it does not fall apart when squeezed, there is adequate moisture present.**
3. When watering next, place a hose inside the basin, letting the water run very slowly for about 30 minutes. **DO NOT RELY ON YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM TO DO THE WATERING FOR YOU.**
4. **DO NOT** put any dry fertilizer around the new tree for the first year, especially not lawn fertilizer. Also, **DO NOT** apply any synthetic root stimulator to the tree. We strongly recommend you apply Carl Pool Root Activator (an organic product) monthly. Begin fertilizing your tree during the second year.
5. **DO NOT** use anything containing a weed killer near the tree.
6. **DO NOT** allow mulch to be stacked up around the tree in a volcano-like shape.
7. **DO NOT** allow children or pets to put their weight against the tree. This will damage new roots.
8. Exercise caution when using a weedeater. You may girdle the tree if you are not careful.
9. During the first year, **DO NOT** plant annuals or perennials around the tree because you do not want anything to compete with the tree roots for moisture while they are getting established.

Note that your tree will need more water in the summer when it is hot, windy and dry, than it will in the winter when the weather is cooler and wetter.

Be aware that a tree can die as easily from too much water as not enough.

A tree is very special. It provides shade, beauty and privacy. Follow the above instructions so that you will enjoy your tree to its fullest.