



# Urban Forestry



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

## Water-Wise Young Landscape Tree Care

Help your trees live 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 over-prune trees during drought. Doing so can create additional stress on the trees.
- Water trees with greywater if possible. Make certain the water is free of non-biodegradable detergents and other harmful chemicals.

### 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 by creating a berm of soil around the planting hole.
- 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.
- 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).



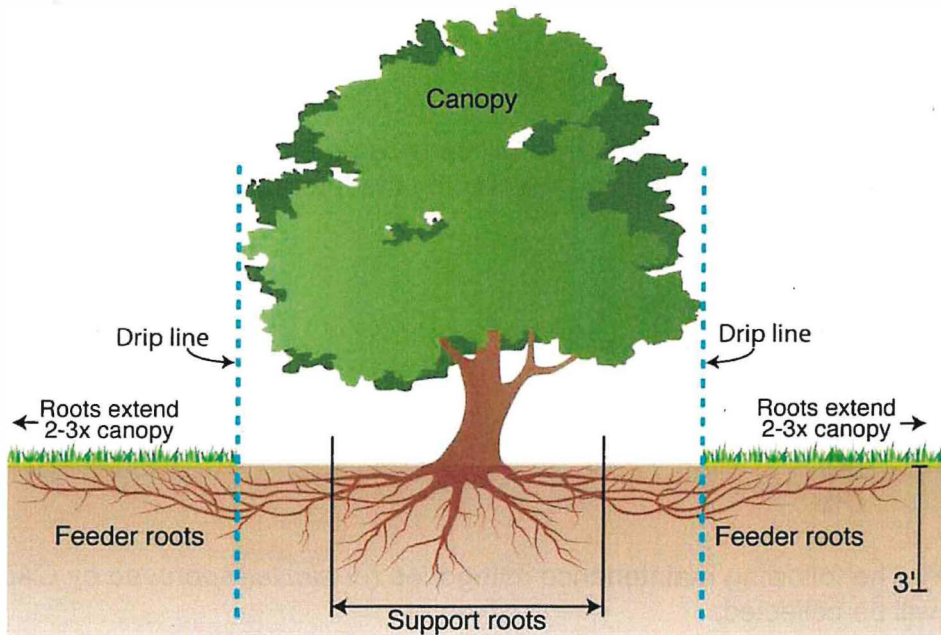
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

## 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. Use a wind-up faucet timer 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 more information, please visit: [www.SaveOurWater.com/trees](http://www.SaveOurWater.com/trees)

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