



Watering Tips for Your Trees



Tree Watering Facts

- ❏ South Pasadena's Urban Forest is a proud member of Tree City USA!
- ❏ Young trees, even drought tolerant ones, need water. Some mature drought tolerant trees can survive on rain water plus a very small amount of irrigation water.
- ❏ Young trees are particularly susceptible to competition from turf grass. Remove all grass from the trunk out to a foot beyond the drip line (the outer canopy of the leaves).
- ❏ Deep watering is much better than shallow watering which encourages shallow roots that can be dangerous and cause the tree to be more prone to drought stress.
- ❏ Trees increase home property values, clean our air, reduce city noise, and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.
- ❏ During the drought, trees should be given a higher priority than lawns. Lawns can be replaced in a matter of months whereas a 20 year old tree will take 20 years to replace.

Tree Watering Tips

- ❏ Depending on the tree type and size, water every one to four weeks.
- ❏ Make sure the water gets into the soil at least two feet deep.
- ❏ All size trees should be watered April through September. Trees should also receive adequate water during the winter months if rainfall is scarce.
- ❏ One to two deep waterings per week or month (depending on the tree and time of year) are much better than many shallow waterings.
- ❏ Place 2" to 3" of mulch around the tree (away from trunk). The tree's leaves are great mulch!
- ❏ How much water your tree should receive depends upon the tree size. A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering.



Ways to Water

- ❏ **Hand Watering:** ☺ Directly apply water with a hose to the drip line of the tree. Create a moat at the root zone (do not disturb the roots) to hold the water and reduce runoff.
- ❏ **Soaker hose:** ☺ Place a soaker hose around a tree's outer canopy (move out as tree grows) to water effectively. For deep watering, keep the hose on for an extended period of time.
- ❏ **Overhead Sprinklers:** ☹ This is not very efficient. But, you can convert your overhead sprinklers to drip with a conversation kit to effectively water your tree.

**Fun Fact: One billing unit of water is 748 gallons.
That's enough to sufficiently water 3 large trees for a year!**

For more information on keeping trees healthy, visit:
treesaregood.com arborday.org selectree.calpoly.edu

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