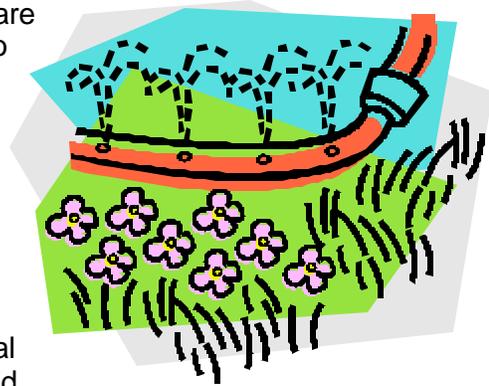


Tree Talk

Are You Watering Enough?

During the hot summer months, newly planted trees are depending on us to supply them with enough water to keep from wilting and dying. Whether the tree was planted as a small 2 foot seedling or a 10' tall balled & burlaped tree, all trees are in need of weekly supplemental water until their roots are established, which can take up to 3 years. Applying a slow trickle of water or using a small sprinkler will help aid in reducing runoff and increase the absorption of the water by the tree roots. Regular irrigation after planting encourages rapid root growth that is essential for tree establishment. On average, small trees should receive 5 gallons of water once or twice a week, and larger, more mature trees should receive at least 10 gallons of water once or twice a week. Irrigation frequency can be reduced greatly if the yard is automatically irrigated or if rain has been abundant. Trees can be killed by over-watering as easily as by drought, so if the ground is saturated, stop watering and give the soil time to breathe.



A good application of wood chip mulch will help insulate soil, retain moisture, keep out weeds, reduce lawnmower damage, and will add an aesthetic touch to a yard or street. Remove any grass within the mulch area, and an area from 3 to 10 feet in diameter around the tree, depending on tree size. Apply wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches within the circle, but not touching the trunk. With organic mulch, trees are able to remain healthier and grow faster.

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