



## Conservation Tree Care Planting Aftercare

### Proper watering is the key to tree survival!

We recommend that trees be given deep soakings. These are typically in the form of tree watering bags or timed drip irrigation. At a bare minimum trees should be given one deep soaking per week. During hot weather that should be increased to 2-3 waterings per week. As a general rule a young tree will need 15 gallons of water per week. This is the amount that a standard tree watering bag will hold. If you are using drip irrigation it should be set up to apply a similar amount. Trees will generally need to be watered for 2-3 years after planting. The larger the tree the longer it will need to be watered for and the more water it will need.

- Watering needs will vary by soil type, clay soils may need less frequent waterings whereas sandy, well drained soils may need more frequent waterings.
- The goal is to keep the soil moist but not wet.
  - Dry soil will typically feel hard and you may have difficulty inserting a trowel, screwdriver or finger.
  - Soil should feel moist but you should not be able to squeeze water out of it.
- Trees do not need to be watered while they are dormant (when leaves are off).
  - For evergreens the dormancy period is roughly similar to nearby deciduous trees.
  - Dormancy is generally starts in October-December and ends in March-May.
- Trees do not need to be watered when there is significant natural precipitation occurring



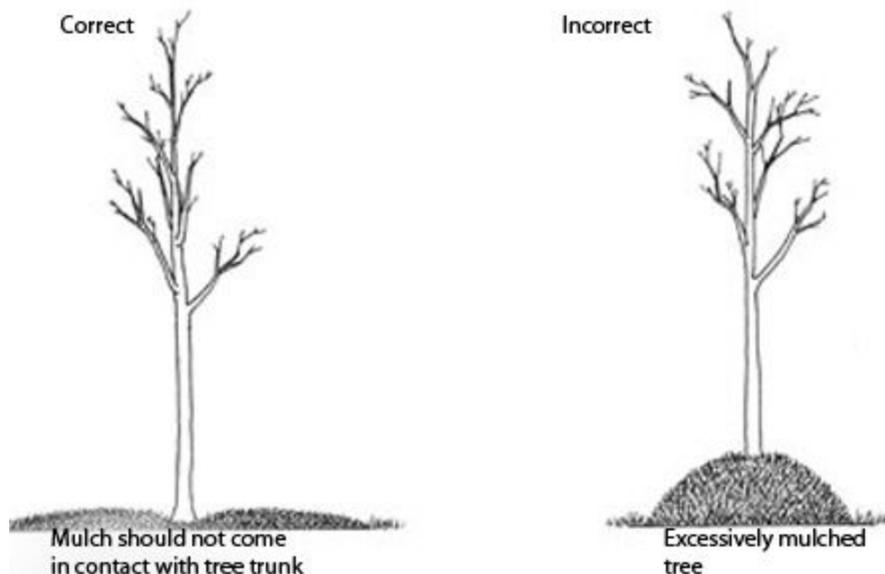


**Stakes:** Stakes should be removed after one full year. Give the tree a moderate wiggle after you remove the stakes. The trunk should flex. If you see the ground moving significantly there may be issues with anchorage. Please give us a call, we will check it out.

Stakes are important for ensuring that a tree doesn't fall over in the short term. They are actually harmful in the long term. Similar to a human muscle growing stronger in response to lifting weights, trees grow in reaction to the physical stresses placed on them. If a tree remains staked it will not experience all of the stresses that should be acting on it and will therefore be weaker.

**Mulch:** After proper watering mulching is one of the best things you can do for your new tree (or any of your trees). It helps retain soil moisture, improve soil structure, combat weeds, improve soil fertility, moderate soil temperature, and the list goes on. You should strive to maintain a 2-4" deep layer of mulch under the tree's dripline (area under the farthest extent of the branches). This mulch should be maintained for the entire life of the tree, the area will expand as the tree grows.

- The mulch you use should be organic, ideally a mix of partially composted bark, branches, and leaves.
  - Arborist wood chip mulch works great.
  - Processed organic mulch can be great too if you are looking for a more uniform appearance.



If you have any questions about your newly planted tree please don't hesitate to ask. Also if anything ever seems a little off with your tree let us know so we can come check it out. Enjoy your new tree!