



Borough of Glen Rock Tree Tips

Watering your tree

Tree watering is a key part of tree care – how much depends on climate and tree species. These few rules of thumb will help guide you to water your trees properly.

Water newly planted trees:

- Water thoroughly before and after planting a tree.

Watering trees during the first two years:

- Proper watering is crucial as new trees have a difficult time dealing with heat and drought and overcoming transplant shock while they are trying to get their roots established in the soil.

How much water and when:

- *Think moist not soggy.* Deep, less frequent watering is better than frequent shallow watering and promotes healthy root growth. You can check soil moisture by using a trowel and inserting it into the ground to a depth of 4", if the soil is moist to the touch then your tree does not need water.
- *Water your tree at least once a week if it has not rained*, especially in the summer months. Slowly apply 15 to 20 gallons of water (slow drip for 1-2 hours) to allow it to penetrate to the root zone.
- *A healthy layer of mulch* around the trunk (but not touching the bark) will help keep the soil moist and suppress weeds that may be competing with your tree for nutrients and water.

Watering trees after the first two years:

- *Know the soil type:* Sandy soils drain water much faster than clay soils. In an area with a heavy clay soil, the water percolates slowly into the ground, so water at a slower rate to help reduce run-off.
- *When to water:* The best time to water is during the morning hours. Afternoon watering tends to increase the chances of water loss through evaporation and watering at night increases the likelihood of fungal infections.
- *Know the weather conditions:* In drought conditions, even established trees may need more water than usual.
- *Know the tree species:* There is a wide variation of irrigation needs between species

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