



# Watering New Trees



## Test the Soil for Moisture



**BEFORE WATERING** It's important to move the mulch back and stick your finger 3-4" down into the soil to test for moisture. If the soil feels moist, skip watering for a day and check again the next day. **Too much moisture can be just as bad for your new tree as not enough moisture.**



## The Weather Component

Temperature, wind, and humidity each play a role in how much water your new tree needs. In times of extreme heat and high winds, you will have to water your new tree more frequently or even daily.



## General Watering Instructions

These instructions are general instructions for average soil. Test for moisture first and don't assume soil in one area of your yard is the same as soil in another area of your yard.

**When to Water:** The best time to water is early morning. The next best time to water is in the evening.

**How Much Water:** General watering guidelines recommend 10 gallons of water per week for every one inch of tree caliper. For example, a two inch caliper tree would require about 20 gallons of water per week. **Caliper Definition-the diameter of a tree trunk 6" off the ground.**

**How to Water:** Use a garden hose without any attachments. Turn the faucet on about halfway or until the water flow is like a drinking fountain. Concentrate the water around the entire "drip line" of the plant (the area that is the width of the tree's canopy). **Using a sprinkler or lawn irrigation system is NOT an effective watering method for a new tree.**

## Watering Frequency

### The First 2 Weeks

Water approximately every 3rd day. If the soil directly below the mulch layer is still moist on the 3rd day, decrease the frequency to every 4-5 days. Avoid frequent, light waterings.

### The Next 4 Weeks

Water approximately once per week depending on weather and soil moisture.

### The Rest of the Growing Season

Your tree needs an inch of water per week, either through rain or watering.

### The Following Growing Season(s)

The caliper of a tree at planting corresponds to the number of growing seasons you may need to do supplemental watering. If you purchased a 1" caliper tree, you may need supplemental watering for one growing season. For a 2" caliper tree, you may need supplemental watering for two growing seasons and so forth. The bigger your tree when planted, the more growing seasons you may need supplemental water.

