

Caring For Trees in a Drought

Did you know?

During the drought, trees must be given top watering priorities over the lawn. Lawns can be replaced in a matter of months whereas a 20 year old tree will take 20 years to replace.

Signs and Symptoms of Drought Stressed Trees

- Premature leaf drop
- Wilting, curling at the edges
- Yellowing of the leaves
- Needles may also turn brown at the tips and may progress through the needle towards the twig

Things to be Mindful of Existing Trees

Water Slowly

- Dispersing the flow of water to get the water deep down to the tree roots
- Watering for short periods of time only encourages shallow rooting

Check for Root Flare

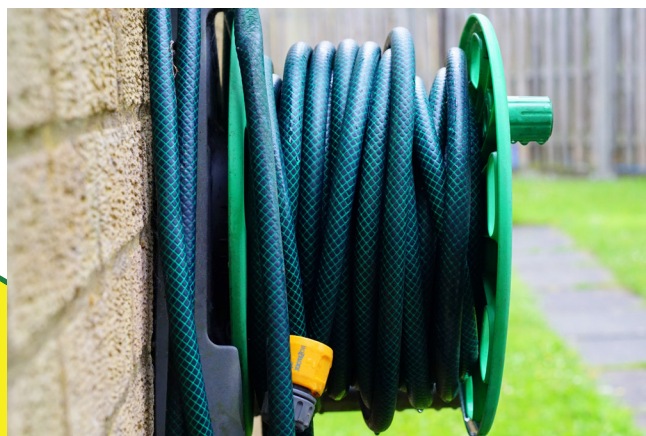
- Trees planted too deep limits oxygen to tree roots

Mulch

- Keep mulch 4" away from trunk
- Mulch helps with moisture retention
- Reduces soil compaction
- Mulch breaks down and creates a nutrient-rich compost

Select Good Nursery Stock

- Check for girdling roots;
- Healthy roots
- Examine the leaves and shoots
- Select a tree with an abundance of healthy foliage



Watering Methods

Drip Irrigation System

Soaker Hoses

- Coiled under the drip line of the tree (spiral pattern)

Monitor Soil Moisture

- If soil is dry and crumbly add water