

HOW TO KEEP TREES ALIVE IN THE DROUGHT

Without regular water, trees can become stressed, susceptible to bugs and diseases, and may even die. With care they can last decades, providing shade, beauty and value to properties and our community.

YOUNG TREES

TIMING: Water about once a week.

AMOUNT: About 15-20 Gallons.

METHOD: Create a 3" to 5" wide basin around the tree and fill slowly.

MATURE TREES

TIMING: Water once or twice a month.

AMOUNT: Soak 18" down.

METHOD: Use a soaker hose.

Mulch

A layer of mulch 3-5" deep insulates and feeds the roots, and also slows evaporation. Avoid mulching against the trunk to prevent rot.

Drip Line

Most watering should be done around the tree's drip line, irrigating the feeder roots.

Feeder Roots

Absorb water and nutrients.

Anchor Roots

Secure tree to the ground.

Feeder Roots

Absorb water and nutrients.

OTHER TIPS

Mulch Heavily: A thick layer of mulch slows evaporation, protects the roots and builds soil.

Capture Water for Your Trees: When waiting for sink or shower water to warm, use a bucket to collect it for other uses.

Check for Moisture 6" to 12" Below the Surface by digging down or using a soil moisture probe.

NOTE: Some well-established trees such as oaks, pittosporums, olives, and eucalyptus need little summer water. In fact, native trees such as oaks may be harmed by irrigation. Contact a certified arborist if you have questions about the health of your trees.