

# NEW STREET TREE CARE

Newly planted street trees can benefit from a little extra TLC during establishment. Follow these simple guidelines to help them to survive!

Since newly transplanted trees have more than 70-80% of their root systems cut off when dug from the nursery, it is vitally important that the roots that remain attached are able to work effectively and efficiently to supply the rest of the tree with what it needs. **Help our Urban Forestry efforts** by taking these simple steps to best manage water availability in newly planted trees.

## PROPER WATERING

For the first 1-3 seasons of its life in a new home, a street tree can benefit from supplemental watering. To do it right, **make sure to water low and slow** (sort of like smoking a good brisket!). Our heavy clay soils can't absorb water quickly, so it's important that the method of application provide water at a near dripping rate.

The simplest way to do this is to lay a nozzle-less garden hose over the root ball, and let it drip for about an hour. If water begins pooling around the surface, try to slow down the flow a bit. We're aiming for about a total of **15-20 gallons per watering**.

An alternative method is to place a watering bag around the trunk. These increase efficiency by slowly releasing the water for you. Call us to request one!

## When and how often?

- We're going for the equivalent of about 1" of rainfall per week.
- During cool, spring months, make sure to pull back the mulch and feel the soil moisture with your finger. If dry 1-2" down, it's time to water.
- During hot summer months, trees may need watered weekly. Quick passing showers often do not absorb at all!



*Don't mulch like this! Mulch volcanoes can cause significant stress to the trunk, and eventually kill the tree.*

## MULCHING WELL

Second to making sure enough water is provided, is making sure that the soil stays cool enough to retain the water near the surface. We can cool the soil and reduce evaporation of the precious water provided by making sure a 4' mulch ring, about 3-4" deep, is maintained around the tree. **Be sure that no mulch touches the trunk**, however. This practice, called "volcano mulching", can damage the tree in other ways. Instead of resembling a volcano, when mulched properly, the ring should resemble a flattened donut.

*For other questions, or more details about the information provided, don't hesitate to reach out! You can contact our Urban Forester by calling (937) 645-7379, or by emailing at [aeavans@marysvilleohio.org](mailto:aeavans@marysvilleohio.org).*