

# Guide to Taking Care of Your Young Tree



# YOUNG TREE WATERING GUIDE

A common misconception is that if a tree is planted in a lawn, there is no need to deep water. This is incorrect! Sprinklers only leave water on the surface of the ground, and don't encourage deep root growth. Deep watering is critical to a tree's long term success.

## So when do I water?

For the first three years, young trees need slow, deep watering if there is no rain. Water two to three times per month depending on how hot and dry it is outside.



**How much do I water:** On average, your tree will need 15 gallons per week.

### Option 1:

Water near the base of the tree with a slow soak. Set the hose on a slow trickle and leave for about two hours.



### Option 2:

Drill a small hole at the bottom of a 5-gallon bucket, fill it the water, and let it drain into the soil. Repeat three times.



### Option 3:

Purchase a watering bag. Set it up around the trunk of the tree. These watering bags have small holes at the bottom and drain for five to nine hours.



For more info, watch our How to Water Your Young Tree Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx2IzEz5NwU>

# Mulching Guide

## What is Mulching?

Mulching is the practice of applying wood chips to the surface of soil around the base of a tree. Applying mulch around young trees has many benefits and enhances the visual appeal of the area.

### How to Mulch

Remember the 4x4x6 rule: spread mulch in a 4-foot diameter around your tree, keep it 4 inches away from the trunk, and layer it 6 inches thick. It should look like a donut.

Mulch will decompose over time, so reapply as needed.



### Benefits of Mulch

- Retains soil moisture/conserves water.
- Acts as a protective barrier against weeds, unwanted pests, and lawn mowers.
- Maintains soil temperatures during extreme cold and heat.



### Common Mistakes

- NO mulch volcanoes (see photo).
- This can trap heat and cause damage to tree roots. .
- Do not install rocks, decomposed granite, weed cloth, artificial turf, or other materials that may trap heat near the tree's roots.

