



# Urban Forestry



Save Our Water  
and Our Trees!  
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## Water-Wise Mature Landscape Tree Care

Allow your high-value trees to thrive through the dry season.

### Benefits of Trees

- During extended dry periods, it is important to occasionally irrigate trees.
- Trees provide many benefits that cannot be easily replaced.
- Removing dead trees can be costly.
- Trees provide tremendous benefits in terms of better air quality, reduced storm water runoff, energy savings, and better quality of life.

### Trees and Dry Periods

- Do not prune trees during the dry season if possible. Doing so can create additional stress to the trees.
- Water trees with greywater if possible. Make certain the water is free of non-biodegradable detergents and other harmful chemicals.

### Guidelines for Irrigating Mature Trees During a Drought

- Follow local watering restrictions, and then only water in the early morning or late evening.
- Mature trees still require irrigation, but less frequently than for young trees.
- Water 1-2 times per month depending on the number of hot days that are experienced. Watering rates for inland areas will likely be more than for coastal areas.
- Trees planted in sandy soils need to be watered a little more frequently, as compared to trees growing in clay soils which generally require watering less frequently.
- Place a layer of mulch 4 to 6 inches deep extending to at least the drip line of the tree to help retain soil moisture and conserve water.
- Keep mulch at least 2 to 3 inches away from the tree trunk. The mulch ring should appear donut-shaped. Rocks, gravel and rubber mulch are discouraged around trees.



## Guidelines continued...

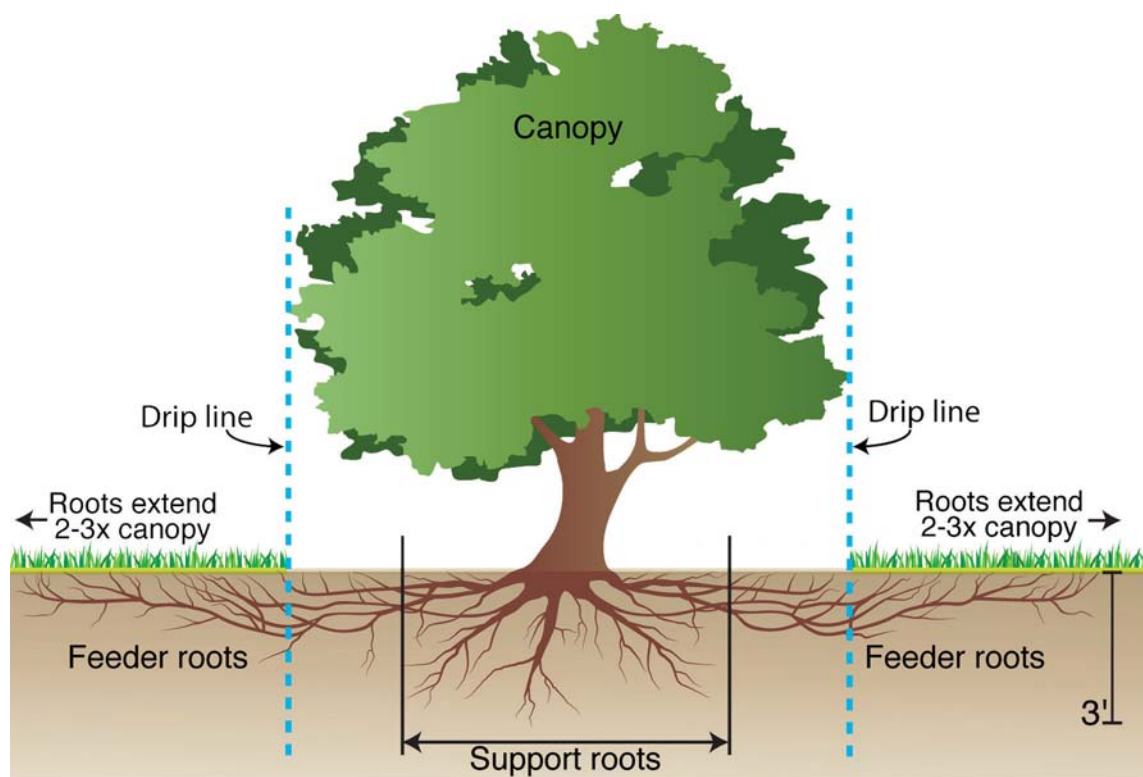
- If your trees are located near a lawn that you are converting to low water use landscape, adjust the watering schedule for trees so that they are gradually weaned from the previous watering schedule.
- If you have an automatic irrigation system, remember to check for leaks and/or breaks at least once a week. If possible, use separate irrigation zones/valves for trees than zones/valves for lawns and shrubs.

## Hand-Watering Options



- Place a soaker hose around the base of the tree outward in a spiral pattern to at least the edge of the tree canopy (drip line) and water according to manufacturer directions.
- To avoid runoff, use a very slow stream of water from a standard hose into the area within the drip line of the tree for an extended period of time. Use a wind-up faucet timer to control the run time.
- Check the soil by plunging a long screwdriver or similar tool into the soil.

The soil should be moist to at least 18 inches deep, but not soggy. Most absorbing roots are within the first 3 feet of soil.



For more information, please visit: [www.SaveOurWater.com/trees](http://www.SaveOurWater.com/trees)