

# Tree Care Guide



## Watering Year 1

- Water your tree immediately after planting.
- Water deeply and often for newly planted trees. How often will depend on the soil – 2-4 times per week for the first two weeks then scale back to 1-2 times per week for the first year. Check soil moisture to know whether it is time to water – look at the soil a few inches down, if it is getting dry it's time for more water. Don't let the soil completely dry out.
- Water your tree with about 5 gallons of water in the early morning or late evening, and water slowly over an extended period.

## Watering Years 2-5

- After the first year scale watering back to once every week or two depending on the season – more often in summer, less often in winter. Continue checking soil moisture, trees may not need any additional water during winter in their 3rd year.
- In the 4th and 5th year most trees will only need a few deep waterings during hot summer months.

## Watering Tips

- Do not over-water, too much water can kill your tree as easily as not enough
- Look for signs of drying leaves on the tree to know if it is getting enough water – be aware that if your tree is deciduous its leaves will turn brown and fall off each fall/winter.
- Expand the watering diameter as the tree grows. Roots will begin to extend beyond the canopy after the first year.

## Pruning

- Prune only dead leaves and branches during the first year, no further pruning is needed and it could stress the tree.
- If pruning is needed, cut the branch to just beyond the 'collar' at the base of the branch. This is where the tree will be best able to heal.

## Other

- Do not use fertilizer on your trees for the first year, instead consider natural soil amendments like compost.
- Mulch the area under your tree to help retain moisture – 3" depth with at least 4" of space around the trunk of the tree.
- Remove lodge poles when the trunk is strong enough to withstand a strong storm, this will be after about 2-4 years, but may take longer.
- Keep the area 6 inches around the tree trunk clear of weeds and grass. Do NOT let a weed whacker get too close to the trunk, it will kill the delicate parts of the tree trunk which carry water and nutrients to the tree.