

## Tree Watering

### Why to Water

Watering your tree regularly is important, especially during the first three years after planting<sup>2</sup>. Watering a newly planted tree correctly will mitigate climate stressors, allowing the tree to live a long and healthy life.



*Leaf scorch shown by browning on leaf margins (3).*



*Watering a newly planted tree with a five gallon bucket (1).*

### Signs & Symptoms of Drought Stress

- Wilting or drooping leaves
- Leaf scorch
- Early color change
- Premature leaf drop
- Slow or stunted growth

### When to Water

Check weekly, or more often in fast draining soils. Appropriate watering from spring through fall is crucial. Frequency depends on soil drainage type and weather. Use a screw-driver or soil probe to check six inches below the surface; water when soil is dry<sup>1</sup>. Apply a layer of mulch around the base of the tree to mitigate evaporative water loss from the soil.

### How Much to Water

Give your newly planted tree five gallons of water at the time of planting. When watering afterwards, use roughly 1.5 gallons of water per diameter inch of trunk. Water within the dripline of the tree<sup>2</sup>. After the first three years of growth, water as needed.

### Watering Methods

- Five gallon bucket
- Water bags or rings
- Soaker hose or drip irrigation
- Sprinklers
- Water gauges

### Sources

- 1) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-Dn25LPhJw&list=PLGsaqXR43SKnIDTBfzwIV75nJCJG0c3vJ&ab\\_channel=UMNUrbanForestry](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-Dn25LPhJw&list=PLGsaqXR43SKnIDTBfzwIV75nJCJG0c3vJ&ab_channel=UMNUrbanForestry)
- 2) [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5368392.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5368392.pdf)
- 3) <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/drought-and-landscape-trees-effects-signs-and-watering-guidelines/>