

Trees will die under drought stress

Won't my tree get green again, like my brown lawn will get green again?

Grass goes dormant during drought periods, springing to green life as soon as the rains resume; trees, however, do not have this same capability. Trees will die under drought stress if they do not get adequate water.

But watering my trees will raise my water bill!

Trees give a great return on the water investment. Not only do they provide shade to cool us and reduce glare during hot dry summer days, they also reduce airborne gases and particulates such as dust. Think of it this way: one toilet flush is 5 gallons—that's enough to water one young tree for a week!

More benefits of keeping trees healthy:

- Well-hydrated trees are more fire-resistant.
- Well-hydrated trees are more resistant to disease and pests.
- Healthy trees are more likely to develop the strong wood and structure that prevents possible hazardous conditions later.

Your trees AND your community thank you for investing in trees!

more information

Additional sources about caring for trees and landscape during drought conditions:

CITY OF OLYMPIA URBAN FORESTRY
NeighborWoods Hotline
360-753-4444, ext. 3810

CITY OF OLYMPIA WATER CONSERVATION
Tikva Breuer
360-753-8793

CITY OF OLYMPIA WEBSITE:
www.ci.olympia.wa.us

THURSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT
360-754-3588

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE, THURSTON COUNTY
360-786-5445

WSU DROUGHT WEBSITE:
www.drought.wsu.edu

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.pnwisa.org

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
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REMEMBER Water your Trees



*and other important tips
for conserving water
& protecting plants*

water wisely

- Young or newly planted trees require a minimum of 5 gallons of water each week.
- Older, established trees have more extensive root systems, but still might not find enough water in the soil during a drought to stay in good health.

The key is a long slow soaking, so that water can penetrate deeply into the root zone without running off over the soil surface. One of the easiest--and cheapest--ways to accomplish this is to drill 2 or 3 small holes (1/16" - 1/8") in the bottom of a 5-gallon bucket, set the bucket near the tree, fill with water - VOILA!

Water can also be delivered from soaker hoses, hose-end devices that control water velocity, neoprene reservoirs that zip around the tree's base—even ice blocks!

CAUTION! Never use overhead sprinklers to water trees; as much as 70% of the water is lost into thin air! Lawn irrigation systems also do not deliver enough water for trees.

Keep grass and weeds away from your trees—their shallow greedy roots will grab precious water before the tree's roots have a chance to absorb any.

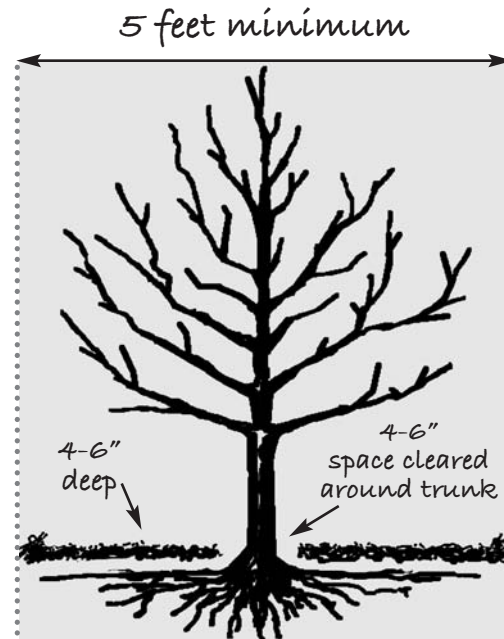
how mulch to mulch?

Mulch conserves water by acting as a vapor barrier and shades the soil beneath it so that it remains cool.

Mulch can consist of chipped branches (available from many local arborists), hazelnut shells, and bark chips. Nearly any water-permeable material may be used.

CAUTION! Do not use sawdust, wood shavings, and grass clippings—these rob the tree of moisture and nitrogen as they break down.

Mulch should be applied around the tree to a distance of at least two feet from the trunk and maintained at a depth of 4 and 6 inches for the greatest benefit. Be careful that mulch doesn't touch the trunk itself.



reduce stress

A healthy tree is a happy tree—lessening the stress on your tree reduces your stress level too! A few additional tips to keep trees in top form during drought:

- Be careful not to overprune; never take more than 20% of a tree's canopy.
- Be careful not to injure the bark, especially on young thin-barked trees.

- **NEVER NEVER TOP A TREE!** There are few practices that injure a tree more seriously and create the potential for so many future hazards. Large topping wounds invite disease and rot into the very heart of the tree, making it more prone to breakage and insect invasion.

