



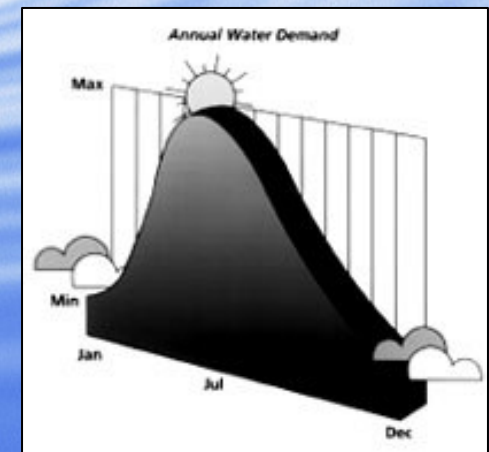
WATERING NEW TREES

Growing trees that THRIVE!

**SDOT-Urban Forestry
206-684-TREE (8733)**

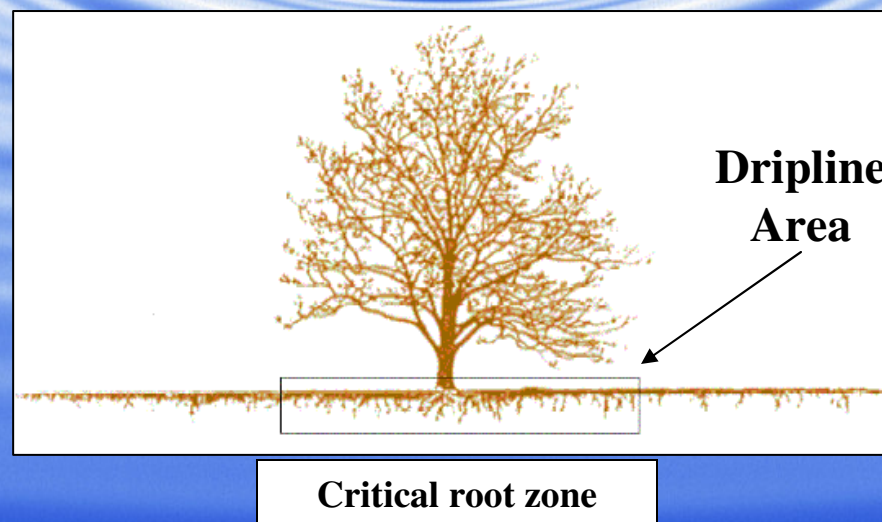
Why water?

- ◆ New trees require consistent water for the first 2 to 3 years in order to re-grow roots lost during transplanting.
- ◆ During this time, keep the root ball moist!
- ◆ If roots dry, trees die!
- ◆ How much and how often depends on weather and age of tree.
- ◆ Shallow, compacted or sandy soils need more frequent irrigation.



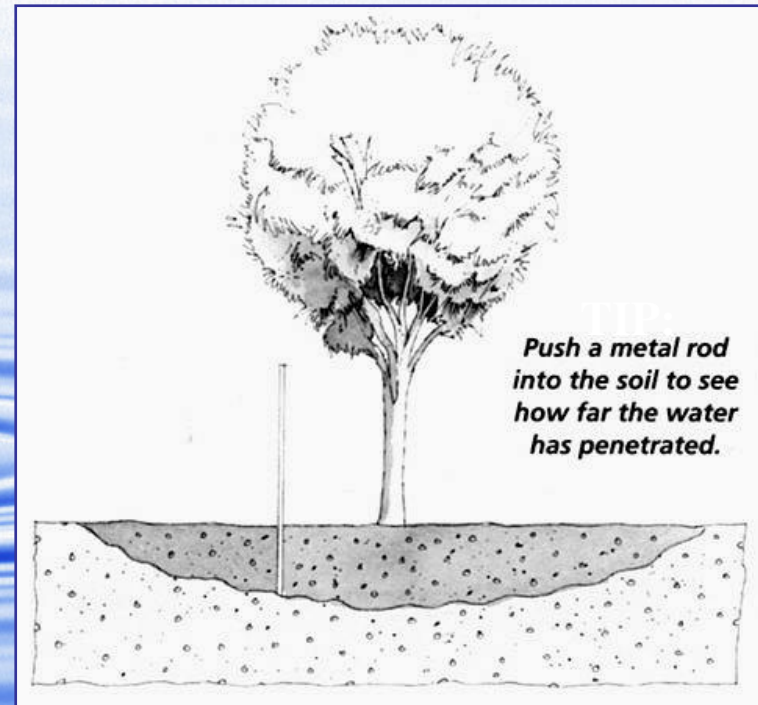
WATERING TREES

- Root systems spread 2-3 times the height of a tree. Trees may lose up to 80% of their root systems during transplanting.
- Most absorbing roots are in the top 12 inches of soil.
- The “**critical root zone**” is within the dripline.



Where to water

- Water within the dripline of the tree.
- Slow, deep watering (18 - 24" deep!) encourages a drought-resistant root system.



How to water:



Coil a soaker hose around the tree.



Simple hose timers make watering easy and consistent!



Watering bags provide up to 20-gallons of slow-dripping water.



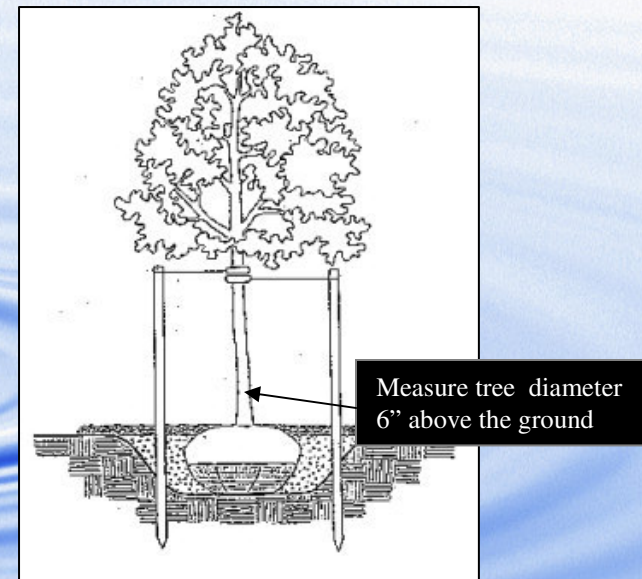
- ◆ **Drill 6 to 8 1/8" holes in the bottom of a bucket.**
- ◆ **Place bucket(s) over tree roots and allow to drain.**

How much?

- ◆ **RULE OF THUMB:** apply 10 gallons of water for each inch of the tree's diameter per week.

(measure diameter 6" above ground level)

- ◆ Plants use 3-5 times as much water in hot, dry weather – you may need additional water.



Watch the tree's "body language!"

SIGNS OF:

Õ OVER-WATERING

- ◆ Soil is constantly damp.
- ◆ Leaves turn a lighter shade of green or turn yellow.
- ◆ Young shoots are wilted.
- ◆ Leaves are green yet brittle.
- ◆ Algae and mushrooms are growing.

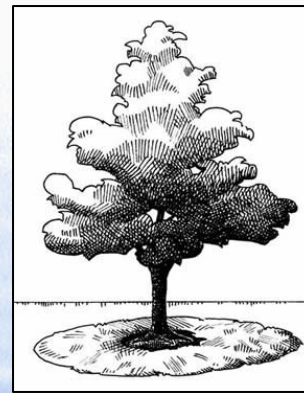
Õ UNDER-WATERING

- ◆ Soil is dry.
- ◆ Older leaves turn color and drop off.
- ◆ Leaves are wilted.
- ◆ Leaves curl.



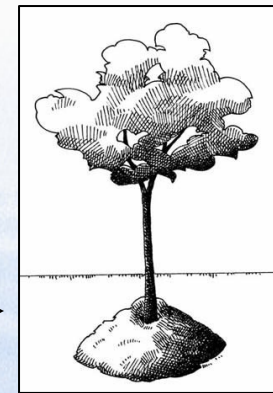
TIPS

- Mulch helps retain soil moisture and discourages weeds, (but keep it from touching the trunk of the tree – to prevent rot!).
- Control weed and grass competition (but don't let weed whips cut into tree trunks!)
- Long, slow watering is more effective.
- Create water basins around newly planted trees.



YES!

Mulch
like a
donut, not
a volcano!



NO!



A water basin directs
water to the root ball,
where it is needed.