

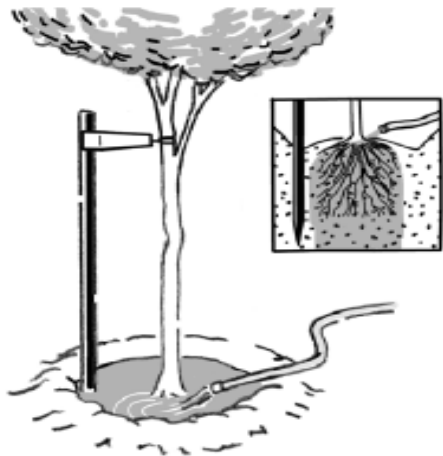
TAKING CARE OF YOUR TREE

Three important things Albany residents can do for young trees:

- 1) **Water properly.**
- 2) **Remove surrounding grass and prevent new grass from growing.**
- 3) **Keep mulch applied to the tree planting site.**

HOW TO WATER

When tree roots become too dry, the leaves show signs of distress (i.e., wilt, lose shine, droop, burn around the edges). If a tree begins to show any of these signs, check the soil. If the soil is dry, water the tree. Do not water if the soil is moist.



WATER SLOWLY AND GENTLY OVER ROOTBALL

Water your tree deeply and regularly. Do not water only a little at a time. This encourages tree roots to grow upwards in search of moisture.

You can water your tree with anything that holds water, just be sure to do it slowly and gently, so the water goes to the tree roots and not the gutter. When trees are planted, a wall of soil is formed around the base of the tree to retain water.

Watering With a Hose

Place the hose on a slow stream at least six inches (6") from the base of the trunk for 20 minutes. Water a little more in hotter weeks, less in colder weeks. Adjust watering so that the tree is receiving just enough water to completely moisten the soil 2 feet deep under the tree, but not enough to overflow on to the sidewalk.

Do not use a hose nozzle when watering. The strong blast of water sprays away the soil, leaving the tree roots exposed. Once exposed, the roots dry out. When the roots become too dry, the tree dies.



Not Like This

Watering with a Bucket

Give the tree 5 gallons of water three times per week. Water a little more in hotter weeks, less in cooler weeks.

Method 1: Slowly pour 5 gallons of water onto the root ball at the base of the tree.

Method 2:

Find a 5-gallon bucket, with a small hole near or on the bottom. Place the bucket on the tree planting site. Fill the bucket with water and let the water drain slowly through the hole. This method makes the water flow easier and less likely to over-water the tree.

In warm weather, April-October:

- Give the tree 5 gallons of water 3 times per week
- Water young trees slowly and gently so that all of the water seeps through the 2' by 2' root ball.

KEEP GRASS AWAY FROM YOUR TREE

Grass is one of the primary reasons that young trees die. Grass competes with the roots of trees for moisture. This moisture is essential for the development of the young tree's root system.

Keep grass at a minimum of two (2') feet away from the trunk of trees. The optimum solution is to eliminate grass near tree roots altogether. Instead of grass, consider flowers, roses, or other types of plants that will not suffocate the tree roots.

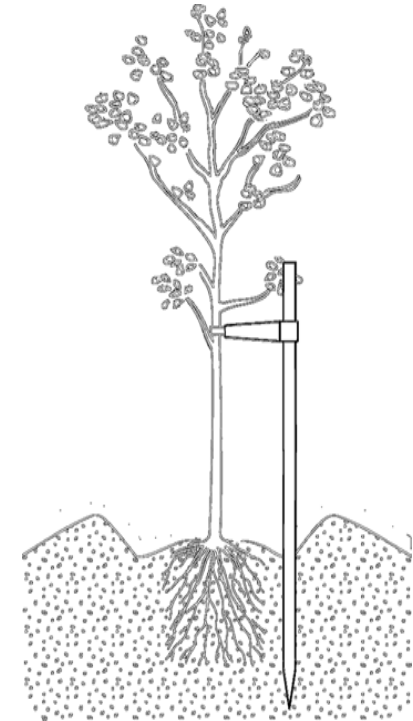
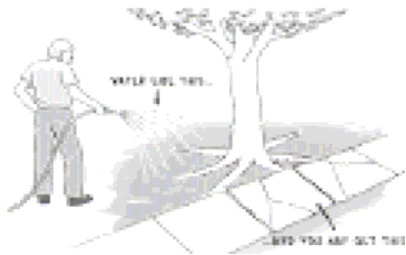
City of Albany Young Tree Care Guide

APPLY MULCH

Keep at least 4" of mulch over the soil. Keep mulch at least 4" from the base of the trunk of the tree. Create and maintain a berm of soil around the tree to retain water. This allows the water to sink in slowly.

ROOTS AND SIDEWALKS

Tree roots seek out moisture and nutrients, much of which is found in the top several inches of soil. Sidewalk damage is caused by roots pushing up against the concrete. Sidewalk damage can be reduced in two ways: 1) by planting a tree that fits in the area provided, or increasing the area provided; and 2) by proper watering. Trees recommended for your block were chosen based on the size of the parking strip to reduce future sidewalk damage. Proper watering is the key to reducing future sidewalk damage. Deep watering enables the tree to find the moisture it needs further down in the soil so that tree roots will be less likely to push up the surrounding concrete.



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