



Watering Your Newly Planted Tree

You have a new Street Tree-- Congratulations!

Here is how you can ensure that your tree grows and adds beauty to your home for a long time.

When to water

Watering newly planted trees 1-2 times each week for the first 2-3 years is essential for their health and survival. Without regular water, young trees will die. How and when you water is important too. Watering slowly/gently and deeply is better for your tree's health than shallow sprinkling. *Deep watering (for longer times) helps promote deep root growth and reduces sidewalk cracking.* And watering before 10 a.m. and/or after 8 p.m. results in more of the water getting to tree roots and less loss to evaporation. This approach reduces water waste and saves money. Read on to learn more about how to water. Rather watch a video? –view the link below:

Watering Tips Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_kQZriJ38U&feature=youtu.be&a=&mc_cid=5b7d1ef136&mc_eid=119b76a445

Watering your Tree General Guidelines.

Watering depends upon several factors, including climate, tree variety and soil type, among others. **Provide your tree 5-10 gallons per week using a slow application or drip is best.** The heavier the soil (more clay), the less water your tree may need. Watch to see how fast the water drains in the tree's basin; avoid creating a swampy condition where water stands for more than 30 minutes. Roots need oxygen as well as water. Try not to step on or dig in the soil when it is wet, because that can squeeze the oxygen out of it. If clay soil dries out too much, water may just puddle on the surface. Try to keep the soil evenly moist without flooding.

Three main methods for watering:

The Bucket Method



Buckets from your local hardware store are available in 5-gallon container sizes. You can pick up one or two buckets at low cost to water. You can fill up your bucket and simply *slowly* pour the water from the bucket into the watering basin around the base of the tree. Alternatively, you could line your buckets with a trash bag and fill each with water. Poke a small hole in the bottom of the bag at one of the bucket drain holes. Let the water drain out slowly near the trunk, but not on it. In the first year, fill the bucket two times once a week every week--even when it's raining.

The Watering Bag Method

This method is similar to the Bucket Method only using a gardening product rather than using a bucket.



Watering bags, available at hardware stores and online, commonly hold around 20-gallons of water so you would only need to fill them once per week. Once filled watering bags slowly release water to the tree's basin, freeing up your time to do other things. *Be sure to install the watering bag zipped around one of the support posts for the tree rather than the tree itself.* Installing it on the base of the tree may cause the tree to die from crown rot due to the moisture that collects there. NOTE: In areas with heavy foot-traffic it may be a useful idea to run a zip-tie through the hoops on the bag and around the post in order to deter theft. Watering bags are available at local stores and online. While the City of Salinas does not endorse any one brand, Tregator® watering bags are one popular product and are available online.

Garden Hose Method



A simple way to determine how long to water *using a garden hose* is to fill up a 5-gallon bucket using your hose on *low force* and time how long it takes. Once you know that simply run your garden hose for that amount of time 2 times per week to apply the 5-10 gallons a week your tree needs. Be careful not to run the water at such a high volume that it washes away the soil. Alternatively, you could run your hose on a slow trickle for 1.5 to 2 hours once a week into the tree basin. *You should water a young tree even during rainy season.* **If you need help with watering schedules or if you believe your tree might need attention, contact City of Salinas' Urban Forestry staff at 831-758-7233.**

