PHS Tree Tenders®

A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PHS TREES TEAM:

IMMEDIATELY INCREASE YOUR WATERING!

15 GALLONS

Dear Tree Recipient,

THE NEXT 2 WEEKS WILL BE VERY HOT

Our young trees need our help. During times of excessive heat and/or drought, extra watering is needed, and mulch is a must!

WATER TREES DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS

During the first two years of a tree's life after planting, they use a great deal of energy trying to establish a strong root system and need weekly watering of 15-20 gallons. During times of heat/drought, you need to give your trees extra watering. This is best done through slow, deep watering, where you thoroughly soak the area around your tree(s) root zone so that all roots, both deep and shallow, are moist. A quarter-inch rain is not enough to soak the root system.

Allowing the soil to completely dry out – or stay soggy (if overwatered during cooler/wetter months or site has poor drainage) – will result in a tree that is stressed, and more prone to disease and pests.

Best time: early morning or evening to minimize water loss to evaporation, spring through fall when air and soil temps above 40 degrees F.



EQUIPMENT

Use a slow drip hose, or a 5-gallon bucket with small 1/8’’ holes at the bottom of the side walls. If using a vertical watering bag (‘‘gator bag’’), we recommend placing around a stake rather than the trunk to avoid potential damage and critters.



FREQUENCY OF WATERING

- Apply 15-20 gallons at least once per week, especially during the 1st year after planting.
- Increase frequency to 2-3x per week in hottest/driest months the first year.

You can check soil moisture by using a garden trowel and inserting it into the ground to a depth of about 3" (or use a soil moisture gauge) Then, simply touch the soil with your finger. If it’s moist to the touch, then there is no need to water.



MULCH

A thin layer of mulch spread around the trunk of your tree, but not piled up against the tree itself will help keep the soil cooler and prevent rapid moisture loss. Remember 3x3x3 as a great guide: 3 inches away from the trunk x 3 inches deep x 3 feet wide around the base of the trunk. Be careful though...too much mulch piled up, known as volcano mulching, can cause a whole new set of problems.

Philadelphia residents can get free wood chips (preferred) or mulch from the **Fairmount Organic Recycling Center**. Up to 30 gallons per visit and bring your own containers/bags.





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WATERING ESTABLISHED TREES

After a few years of growth, your trees should have developed a strong, healthy root system. This should allow the tree to survive and thrive during a variety of weather conditions, needing your help with additional watering only during long periods of drought.

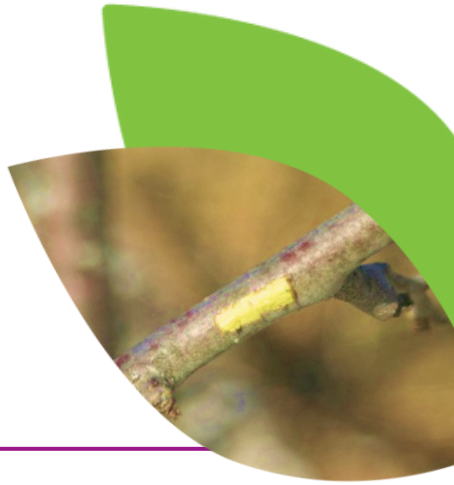
WHAT IF YOUR TREE LOOKS DEAD?

If your tree has no green leaves, perform the 'scratch test': peel away a thin layer of bark on the branches using a fingernail or sharp knife. If it is still green underneath, your tree is alive, so keep watering it. If there is no green living tissue under the bark, please get in touch with PHS and your local Tree Tenders leaders to request a replacement tree at your address.

Thank you so much for caring for and loving your tree! To help more people become tree recipients like you, please donate to our **More Trees Please Campaign**!

With **Mulch** Appreciation,

The PHS Trees Team



WANT TO LEARN HOW TO BECOME THE BEST TREE PARENT?

TAKE A TREE TENDERS CLASS

QUESTIONS?

TREES@PENNHORT.ORG

Tips for Thirsty Trees!

Roll out the buckets and fill each one three-four times so each new tree can make it through another hot week. Today's rainfall was just a teaser.

When I take my daily stroll, I give trees pep talks, but they reply "words are just words, while water is a sign of true love."

Cynthia, East Falls Tree Tenders

PS - Humans also need to stay hydrated

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Please contact your Tree Tenders Group if you have any question, concerns, or need help with watering and mulching!