

TREE PLANTINGS MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your trees have been planted, what's next?

Newly planted trees require weekly maintenance during the first two years that they're in the ground. Please be sure to weed, water, and mulch per the instructions below.

WATER

Watering your newly planted tree is the best thing you can do for it. After it has been planted, water 20-30 gallons a day for the first three (3) days immediately after planting. Then, water once a week 20-30 gallons from the spring through the fall until the ground freezes. A slow trickle from a hose for half an hour is perfect. Water more frequently during dry periods.

WEEDS

Grass and weeds compete for the same water and nutrition as the tree. Remove any grass or weeds growing in the tree bed. Be sure to remove the roots of the weed as well.

MULCH

Mulch is a tree's best friend. Mulch helps soil hold water for the tree's roots and reduces grass and weeds. Apply mulch 2-3 inches deep and make sure to keep mulch 4-5 inches away from the trunk of the tree. Improper mulching kills trees, never pile up a mound of mulch around the base of three. This will rot the bark and kill the tree.



PRUNING

Bad pruning kills trees. Please contact the New Jersey Tree Foundation at www.njtreefoundation.org and attend a workshop to learn how to properly prune your tree. Do not top your tree or cut the main branches back to stubs. Ugly, weakly attached limbs often grown back higherthen the original branches. Topping is one of the worst things you can do for the hearlh of the tree.

PLACE GUARDS OR FENCES

Never place a guard or fence in close proximity to or surrounding a tree trunk. This will cut the bark and cause wounds allowing insects and disease to enter the tree. Instead place a small fence around the perimeter of your tree bed.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

Please photograph your green infrastructure practice and share pictures with the Rutgers Cooperative Extention (RCE) Water Resources Program! In addition, document the maintenance of the practice, and be sure to contact RCE Water Resources Program at water@envsci.rutgers.edu if you need assistance or have any questions.

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For more information, please visit:
www.water.rutgers.edu