

Watering Instructions

Water your tree IMMEDIATELY after planting... waiting even one hour can make the difference in your tree's survival.

How much & how often to water?

Water 5 gallons every 3 to 4 days. How often you water depends on your site & the season.

Check the soil moisture a few inches below the soil surface of the rootball. It should feel moist, but not soggy. If there is any excess moisture, wait 1-2 days then check the soil moisture again before watering. **Too much water is just as bad as not enough!** Most trees need a maximum of 10 - 15 gallons of water each week for the first year.

How to water?




If possible, irrigate in the evening or early morning using a low flow rate for a long duration within the water basin, (a raised mound of dirt around the tree trunk, forming a circle 18" in diameter around the tree), to ensure that the entire rootball is saturated. *Note. To determine the duration needed to water 5 gallons, you can time how long it takes to fill a 1 or 5 gal. bucket at a given low flow rate.



Provided by:
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General Information

-  **Turf sprinkler irrigation systems alone do not provide sufficient watering for young trees to survive;** additional deep-watering is necessary to saturate the rootball in most cases.
-  Ensure that the watering basin around the trunk of the tree holds water. If water drains out of the basin, the tree's roots are not getting watered. **Keep the soil inside the watering basin free of all vegetation - this includes grass!**
-  It may be necessary to make adjustments in the frequency and duration of watering depending on soil type, drainage, weather, and tree species.

Watering in different seasons

Wet Season Plantings (rainy season & winter)

Irrigate trees planted in the late winter to early spring on a weekly basis. Begin deep watering 1-2 times a week with the approach of warm, dry weather.

Dry Season Plantings (summer & warmer months)

Irrigate trees planted during the dry season 2 to 3 times a week for the first few months and every 3 to 4 days thereafter until the rainy season. It may be necessary to water more frequently during particularly dry, hot weather.

As the tree grows...



2nd Year After Planting

Gradually reduce the frequency of watering during the second year to a weekly basis. Begin in late spring & continue through early winter as needed.



3rd Year After Planting

By the third year, deep watering every other week should suffice, but remember to check your tree often. Watering during the rainy season may not be necessary - remove the soil berm that forms the watering basin- **Do not pile soil/mulch up against the tree trunk or change the grade of the soil under the canopy.**



4th & 5th Years After Planting

Most established trees will benefit from periodic, but infrequent deep watering, particularly during the dry season. Irrigate the soil under the tree canopy. Many trees will thrive with 2 or 3 deep soakings during the summer of the fourth or fifth year. Monitor your tree carefully!

Caution: Certain mature trees can suffer from regular irrigation. Minimize irrigation for the following trees once established in the landscape:

- CA native Oaks (*Quercus* spp.)
- Chinese Pistache (*Pistachia chinensis*)
- Marina Madrone (*Arbutus 'Marina'*)
- Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstromia x fauriei*)

Tree Staking Information

Our City Forest (OCF) provides either 2 or 3 wood stakes or 1 green metal Reddy™ Stake with each tree to provide **TEMPORARY** support while the tree becomes established and should be **REMOVED within 2 - 3 years**. After the tree is well rooted, residents are expected to return the stake to OCF so they can be **REUSED** on other trees.

Why use a Reddy™ Stake?

Our City Forest provides Reddy™ Stake because they are:

- **EASIER TO INSTALL**
- **ADJUSTABLE**
- **REUSABLE**
- **EASIER TO TRANSPORT** (you only need 1 per tree)

How long will the tree need the stake?

For most young trees the stake is needed to support the tree for about 1 or 2 years, but should **NOT BE ON LONGER THAN 3 YEARS** if it has received the proper care and stewardship.

The ultimate goal is to remove the staking as soon as possible so that your tree does not become too dependent on the stake for support. The better care your young tree receives the sooner your stake can be removed.

Leaving the stake on the tree for longer than necessary or staking the tree too tightly can prevent the tree from becoming adequately rooted in the ground; it can also limit the development of trunk strength necessary for the tree to support itself.

How can I tell when the stake is ready to be removed?

Once you think your tree is ready for the Reddy™ Stake to be removed, firmly grasp the base of the trunk and shake the trunk. If the rooball or ground moves as you shake the tree, then the Reddy Stake is **NOT** ready to be removed. If the tree is rooted in the ground, the soil will not move when you shake the tree. Contact OCF for step-by-step Reddy™ Stake Removal instructions.

What do I do with the stake after my tree does not need it?

OCF reuses the tree stakes we provide on other newly planted trees. It is important that you contact us when you feel that the staking may be ready to be removed. We can arrange to **RETURN THE STAKES TO OCF**.

CAUTION: Tree stakes can potentially cause **PHYSICAL DAMAGE AND DEATH** if staked too firmly or if the stake is left in too long. Please **DO NOT TIGHTEN THE TIES OR INSTALL ADDITIONAL TIES** to the stake(s) after it has been installed. If you are concerned about the tree's support please contact OCF for consultation/assistance.

How do I install the Reddy™ Stake?

The stake should be installed with the tie at the lowest point on the trunk possible while the top of the tree is still held upright. Upright does not have to be absolutely vertical and in most cases it will not be. Contact OCF for step-by-step Reddy™ Stake Installation instructions.

As the tree grows...

it may be necessary to adjust the stake. To adjust the stake simply loosen the bolt on the 'T' bar with a wrench. Then raise or lower the bar as needed.

KEEP IN MIND:

The ties should provide **ENOUGH SLACK SO THE TREE IS FREE TO MOVE** in the wind.

What about the nursery stake?

Often trees arrive with stakes supporting them in the container. These stakes must be removed upon planting, as they do not provide the trees the mobility they need to become established above and below ground.



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