

TIPS on tree watering



- **Tree roots are not like carrots.**
Tree root systems can spread two to three times wider than the height of the tree. Most of the tree's absorbing roots are in the top twelve inches of the soil. Water should be applied within the dripline (the critical root zone in the box above).
- **Water deeply and slowly.**
Apply water so it moistens the soil in the critical root zone to a depth of 12 inches. Methods for watering include a deep root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. Apply water to many locations under dripline. If a deep root fork or needle is used, insert the device no deeper than eight inches into the soil.
- **How much water to apply.**
To assure survival of the tree, apply 10 gallons of water for each inch of the tree's diameter. For example, a two-inch diameter tree will need 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter.
- **When to water.**
During prolonged dry periods in the fall and winter (October - March), water one to two times per month. Water only when temperature is above 40 degrees and no snow cover exists.
- **Mulch helps retain soil moisture.**
Mulch is *critical* to conserve soil moisture. Apply organic mulch within the dripline, at a depth of four inches. It's best to eliminate turf prior to adding mulch. Leave a six-inch space between the mulch and trunk of trees. Mulch materials may include wood chips, bark, leaves and evergreen needles.
- **Moisture is needed to avoid disease.**
Stressed trees are more vulnerable to disease and insect infestations and branch dieback. Keep a watchful eye for anything that looks out of the ordinary.

For xeriscape and conservation information visit: www.denverwater.org.
For more details on watering and tree care visit: www.watersaver.org.

Para recibir la información en español, sobre el cuidado de árboles, llame al 303-628-6343.

A Guide to Tree Care in Dry Climates

SAVE
OUR
SHADE



DENVER WATER



TREE WATERING INFORMATION

from the Community Tree Alliance
 Visit: www.watersaver.org

Denver Water encourages you to visit the web site listed above for suggestions on care of your trees and shrubs in our dry climate. The web site offers tips from tree care professionals on the following subjects:

- General tree watering recommendations
- Tree watering devices
- Caring for trees
- Planting trees and shrubs
- Shrub watering recommendations

These recommendations were prepared by the Community Tree Alliance, which is comprised of tree professionals from the following:





Cities: Arvada, Aurora, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Ft. Collins, Greenwood Village, Lakewood, Littleton, Louisville, Town of Castle Rock, Westminster, Wheat Ridge

Other Government: CSU Cooperative Extension, Denver County, Jefferson County, Colorado State Forest Service, Denver Water, South Suburban Parks District

Not-for-Profit Organizations: Colorado Tree Coalition, Green Industries of Colorado, The Park People

FALL/WINTER TREE WATERING SCHEDULE (OCT-MAR)

(For temperatures above 40 degrees with no snow cover.)

		TREE DIAMETER (in inches)									
		<1"	1"	2"	4"	6"	8"	10"	12"	14"+	
WATERING DEVICE	 Deep Root Fork 2 gallons per minute	2	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70+	
	 Deep Root Needle 2 gallons per minute	2	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70+	
	 Soft Spray Wand 4 gallons per minute	1	3	5	10	15	20	25	30	35+	
	 Soaker Hose 2gpm (50 ft w/restrictor)	2	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70+	
Water once or twice a month											

