

Tree Care Tips

WATER YOUR TREES

It's easy to forget to water your trees or to think your trees are getting enough water because you are watering your lawn. Trees require one deep soaking once per week. You can use a green 'gator' bag to fill once a week. A gator bag holds 20 gallons of water. Or you can use a hose and allow a slow trickle to percolate into the area around the trunk of the tree for at least 20 minutes once a week.

Tree Gator Bag

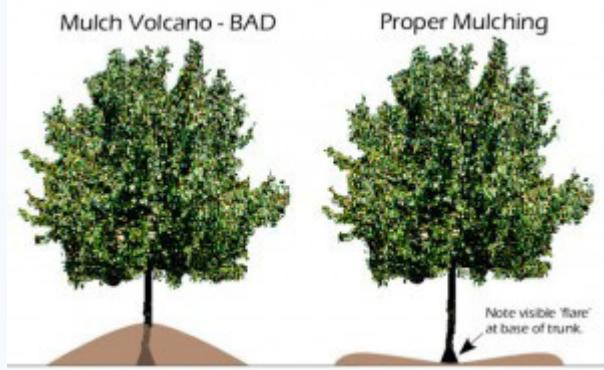


CHECK YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

If you water your lawn with an irrigation system, check the zones where your trees are growing so that the amount of water is properly set. Most lawns, during the summer, require up to 5 inches of water per week. A tree only requires 1 to 2 inches of water per week.

APPLY MULCH

Mulch is a great way to maintain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and deliver a steady stream of organic nutrients to your trees and woody plants. (Link to Tree Preservation Bulletin #3). The only caveat we have is "NO VOLCANO MULCH". Landscape companies like to pile the mulch into a mound around the base of your trees. This practice is harmful to trees and can create an environment that inhibits your tree's growth and future well-being. It is best to leave a ring around the base of your tree with very little mulch while mulching the rest of tree up to the drip line (or where the branches end). Mulch can be replenished every year. Public Works offers free bark chips for anyone who would like to come to our yard to pick them up. The bin is available 24/7.



CHECK YOUR TREE LEAVES AND BARK FOR SIGNS OF INSECTS

A tree at this time may be showing signs of fungal infection from the spring or some damage by insects like Japanese Beetle. You may want to consider having an arborist look at your trees to prescribe a Plant Health Care Management plan for the next growing season. Some treatments can still be done in the Fall for the following year.

PREPARE YOUR TREES AND SHRUBS FOR WINTER

- **You will want to be sure that your trees and shrubs are properly watered before the ground freezes.** This usually happens after the end of October. You can also follow the weather reports to monitor the air temperatures and if they fall below 32 degrees F for 3 consecutive days, you will want to water your trees one last time. A tree that goes into winter dormancy with a moist soil environment can withstand the freezes and thaw cycles that our winter weather tends toward.
- **If you have evergreens, you may want to spray them with an anti-transpirant like "Wilt-Pruf" or have your arborist give you a quote to spray them.** This treatment helps prevent winter burn on the needles. Winter burn is caused by excessive sunlight on a very cold day. The evergreen continues to transpire water through its needles but cannot get enough water from the roots so the needles dry out. The anti-transpirant will prevent some of the water loss through the needles and therefore the browning of the needles.

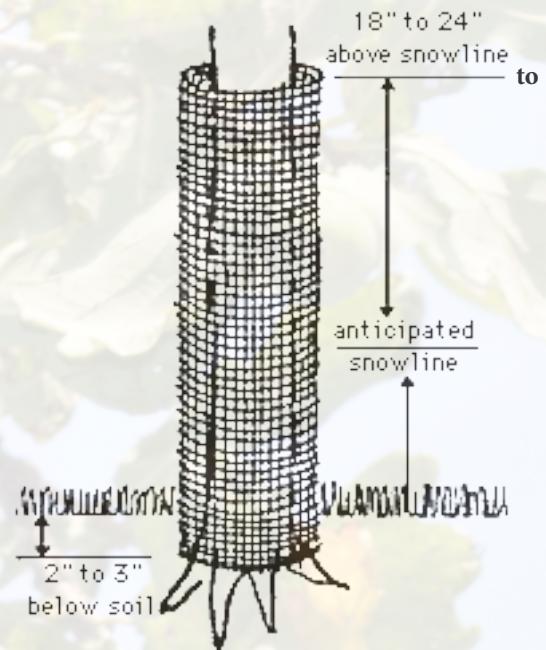
- If you have thin-barked trees such as Beech, Freeman maple, Linden or June dogwood, to name a few species, you may want to wrap the tree trunks with burlap wrap. The wrap also prevents deer damage. Fall is a peak time for male deer to rub their antlers on young trees and scrape off the bark. In some cases, the tree may not survive as all of the bark gets scraped to the cambial layer (the living tissue layer) and cannot be re-grown. Wrapping is an effective way to prevent animal damage.

Wrap the tree trunk with burlap wrap available at our local garden centers.

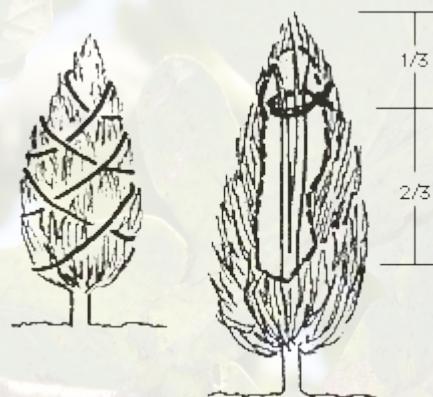


- If you have trees or shrubs that rabbits prefer, such as members of the apple family or cherry family, you may need to put wire cages around the trees prevent browsing or scraping of bark during fall and winter.

Wire cages protect tree bark during the fall and winter.



- If you have evergreens like arborvitae that may split or fall apart during an ice storm or heavy snow, you may want to tie the branches together for the winter.



Protect your evergreens from heavy snow and ice.