

SHADE TREES CARE SHEET

First Two Weeks after planting

- Water all trees every day for the first 14 days after planting

First Two Years

- Water trees regularly if there has not been a significant recent rainfall (mid-March through December)
- Cover any bare spots around trees with mulch
- Weed the garden area and around planted trees as needed (at least 4 times a year)
- Watch out for erosion and repair it before soil and mulch wash away
- Replace any broken stakes or wires
- Keep an eye on trees and shrubs for pests or disease and call the District of Columbia Cooperative Extension Service at (202) 274-7115 to find out how to handle the problem

Each Year in Late Winter (February to Early March)

- Prune dead branches from trees

Every Spring (April 15-May 30)

- Add new mulch (every two to three years, take out old mulch before adding new)

Watering Tips

A heavy soaking 2-3 times a week is needed, if it has not rained heavily. A soaker hose or gentle spray that waters slowly is best. New trees need about an inch of water a week. To see if watering is needed, clear away the mulch and poke a stick or screwdriver into the soil. If it does not go down 6 inches, you need to water.

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