

# Guide for Watering Newly Planted Boulevard Trees

Watering newly planted trees is very important in determining whether a new tree will live or die. Please use this guide when determining the amount of water and the intervals of watering for your newly planted trees.

A sprinkler system will not give your new tree the proper water it needs for good root growth. Do not expect your normal watering practices for established trees to be adequate for newly planted trees. If the new tree is located in the lawn area, do not rely on lawn irrigation to provide enough water. **Keep in mind that the root ball can dry out within a day or two in hot weather.** Also, keep in mind that lawn irrigation can over water your trees, which will kill your tree. It is easier to add water than remove it.

Special attention should be given to trees for at least three years until they become established and develop adequate root systems out into the surrounding soil.

## **Simple Rules to Follow**

- Generally, young trees need watering during **any week there is less than an inch of rain until a hard freeze occurs.** Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall.
- Young trees need at least 8-10 gallons of water a week.
- It is easier to add water than remove it, so do not over water.
- It is best to water slowly and deeply.
- Water early in the day.
- Do not fertilize until the second year.
- Do not use weed killer near new trees.
- Maintain a mulch cover at the base of the new tree.

Please **DO NOT put plastic or landscape fabric** of any kind at the base of the tree for rock or chips, doing this will eventually kill the tree. If you are using wood chip mulch only put on a 2-inch layer and maintain it for at least 3 to 4 years.

**A Couple Final Notes:** The potted trees that we plant will not fully leaf out for 2 to 3 years. The City Forestry Division will trim all boulevard trees, Please DO NOT attempt to do this yourself.