

# Your young tree is part of our valuable urban forest

**Trees...** are the most beautiful solution to global climate change.

**Trees...** remove CO2 and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

**Trees...** clean our air, removing particulates and other harmful pollutants.

**Tree roots...** filter rain water and runoff, cleaning and recharging drinking water resources.

**Trees...** slow the rush of rain water to the storm system, protecting creeks, preventing flooding and reducing storm management costs.

**Trees...** provide cooling shade and reduce energy costs.

**Trees...** raise property values.

## The first 5 years are critical for the long-term health of a tree

### Select the right tree

Tree preservation begins with planting the right tree in the right place. For example:

- Plant drought-tolerant species to ease water requirements.
- Plant small trees in small spaces and under power lines.
- Plant medium-large trees to create shady play areas or on the west and south sides of buildings for energy conservation.
- Visit Canopy's online Tree Library for help selecting an appropriate tree.

### Water

- Young trees require regular watering for good health and disease prevention.
- Deep watering prevents surface roots.
- Conserve water and preserve trees! Increase watering for trees during drought, conserve water in other areas of your home and landscape.
- Weekly watering costs less than \$1/mo.

### Weed

- Keep the base of the tree free of weeds, lawn and other plants. Plants and weeds compete with the tree for water and nutrients.

### Protect

- Safeguard the trunk from damage by weed whackers and mowers.
- Mulch around tree trunks can suppress weeds and can protect young roots from drying out.

## Young Tree Care Survey:

Canopy partners with The City of Palo Alto to monitor young street trees during their most vulnerable first 5 years. Canopy volunteers survey these trees annually and provide residents and the City with feedback on each tree's growth. Your help is critical in ensuring the survival of your street tree! Survey results for your young street tree:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Planted: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Rating:

☐ Dead ☐ Critical ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent

### Your tree needs attention:

- ☐ Please water regularly. **Your tree is thirsty!**
- ☐ Please add mulch
- ☐ Please weed or remove grass or plants

### We will ask the City of Palo Alto to:

- ☐ Rebuild water basin
- ☐ Prune suckers
- ☐ Replace tree ties and/or stakes
- ☐ Remove stakes
- ☐ Clear root flare
- ☐ Prune for clearance and structure
- ☐ Remove dead tree

Please do not prune street trees—The City of Palo Alto will take care of this.



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650 964 6110 • [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org)



City of Palo Alto Tree Division  
650 496 5953 • [www.city.palo-alto.ca.us](http://www.city.palo-alto.ca.us)



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Healthy trees, healthy communities

Canopy creates healthier communities by protecting and growing the urban forest and engaging people in nature-based education.

# Young Tree Care

Tips on caring for your young street tree.

### Inside

- Survey of your young tree!
- Watering tips
- Young tree care instructions
- Ways to protect your tree





## Is your tree thirsty?

### Check Soil Moisture.

At least once a month, check soil 4-6 inches deep. Soil should be evenly moist, not wet.

### Mulch to conserve moisture.

Cover the soil with a layer of mulch 4 to 6 inches thick extending at least to the edge of the drip line of the tree, but 1 inch clear of the trunk.

### Lawn irrigation does not provide adequate irrigation for trees.

Lawn irrigation or light sprinkling (for just 5-10 minutes) waters only a few inches of soil, is inefficient, and encourages surface roots.

## Is your young tree protected?

### Protect trees from lawn equipment.

Cuts in the bark interrupt transport of water and nutrients and expose the tree to infection by pests and diseases.

### Protect young trees from chemicals.

Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides can burn or damage a young tree's roots and leaves.

For more information, visit: [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org).

Conserve water, protect trees... Follow "smart watering" guidelines!

## Watering options:

### Watering Basin

Build a soil berm around the tree to hold 10-15 gallons; fill each week (a medium pressure hose fills a 10 gallon basin in 5 minutes). Keep the basin close right after planting and widen it as the tree grows.

### Soaker Hoses

Install soaker hoses around the tree in coils extending out to the drip line; cover with mulch and run on low for 1-3 hours.

### 4. 5-Gallon Buckets (use 2 or 3)

Drill 3-5 holes in the bottom of the buckets and place them around the tree. Fill the buckets with water and leave to drain. More detailed watering instructions can be found on Canopy's website: [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org).

## Deep watering young trees:

### How often should I deep water?

Summer: once each week.

Winter: once each month.

### How much water is needed?

Use 10-15 gallons per young tree or inch of trunk diameter.

### Where do I water?

Saturate the soil to a depth of 12 inches below the soil surface and out to the "drip line" of the outermost branches and leaves.