



For Immediate Release

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During Drought, Smart Tree Care is a Critical Investment

PALO ALTO, July 7, 2015: As California's drought intensifies and communities respond with much-needed water conservation measures, urban trees are at risk. Urban trees are the most valuable, lasting element of our green infrastructure. A mature tree that succumbs to drought takes decades to replace, whereas simple, conservative watering techniques used this summer can safeguard trees. Canopy, a San Francisco Mid-Peninsula urban forestry organization, advocates for both water conservation and tree preservation through easy-to-follow tree care techniques.

Trees: A key urban asset

Trees provide numerous community benefits, and represent a significant long-term investment.

Urban trees:

- Help water soak into the soil and replenish groundwater
- Enhance public health
- Create vibrant, livable communities
- Combat climate change
- Represent a water-efficient investment; a well-managed urban forest saves more water than it consumes

Tree Care tips: Water conservation and tree preservation go hand in hand

Residents can use five simple measures to ensure the survival of urban trees and still promote water conservation.

1. Know your tree's needs

Look up your tree's individual watering needs on Canopy's tree library.

2. Water wisely

- Check soil moisture at least 6 inches deep at several locations under the tree's outermost branches
- Water gradually and deeply underneath the outermost branches where tree feeder roots absorb water
- Water mature trees once a month or every other month, and young trees every other week

3. Mulch to conserve moisture

Besides proper watering, the best way to protect your trees during drought is to apply a layer of mulch 3 to 5 inches thick above the tree's root system, but avoiding the trunk.

4. Conserve water throughout the landscape

Remove your lawn, but help your tree transition to a less frequent, deeper watering pattern. Use water efficient methods like soaker hoses, sprinklers, or ideally, a simple drip irrigation system.

5. Plant the right tree in the right place

Planting trees is especially important during a drought. Trees lost to drought need to be replaced and the urban forest renewed for the future. Planting season in our climate is from October to March.

Visit Canopy's web site to download a flyer on trees and drought and for more detailed tree care tips.

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*Canopy plants and cares for trees where people need them the most. We bring the life-giving benefits of trees to the schools, neighborhoods, and public spaces of the San Francisco Mid-Peninsula. We envision a day when every resident of the San Francisco Mid-Peninsula can step outside and walk, play, and thrive under the shade of a healthy tree. **canopy.org***