

SEASONAL CARE OF YOUNG TREES



Young trees have special needs for several years after planting. Here are some tips to give your new tree a head start for a long, healthy future.

- **Put the right tree in the right place!**
Before purchasing a tree, learn which growing conditions - such as light, moisture and soil type - it needs to thrive.
- **Keep the mature tree in mind!**
Choose a spot where the tree won't interfere with power lines, property boundaries, hydrants, road visibility etc.
- **Call before you dig!**
Gopher State One Call needs to mark underground utilities before you plant. Call 811 or visit gopherstateonecall.org.
- **Plant it properly!**
Watch our tree planting video at bit.ly/46Bncu9.

GROWING SEASON

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov
ground thaws *leaf-out & flowering* *growth & fruiting* *leaves turn & drop* *tree stops growing*

DORMANT SEASON

Dec Jan Feb Mar
soil is frozen

PLANT anytime during the growing season.

WATER over the root system after planting and then weekly - or even twice weekly, if the weather is extremely hot or dry. Consider using a watering bag that releases water slowly. Gradually increase the watering area to accommodate the growing root system.

Apply a ring of organic **MULCH** after planting. It should be three feet in diameter, three inches thick, and stop about three inches from the tree's trunk.

Install wire-welded caging to **PROTECT** from browsing deer. Leave in place for three to five years.

Use a white tree guard between September and May, to **PROTECT** from browsing and other damage.

PRUNE as needed to ensure the tree develops good form and structure. Learn more at bit.ly/ProperPruning.

PRUNE ash and oak trees in winter to reduce the spread of insects and diseases.



There's no need to water while a tree is dormant.

SEASONAL CARE OF ESTABLISHED TREES



An “established” tree is 10 to 50 years old.

- During this stage of its life, a tree continues to grow taller and wider.
- It has settled into the landscape with a good root system, and is actively producing flowers and seeds.

Ongoing care and periodic maintenance can keep your established trees healthy and strong. In turn, these trees provide a wealth of benefits - from aesthetic appeal and reduced energy costs to habitat, stormwater absorption and erosion control.

GROWING SEASON

DORMANT SEASON

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<i>ground thaws</i>		<i>growth & fruiting</i>					<i>tree stops growing</i>				
<i>leaf-out & flowering</i>			<i>leaves turn & drop</i>			<i>soil is frozen</i>					

During periods of drought, **WATER** deeply once every two weeks from the trunk to the dripline. Check the city website for watering restrictions.

Maintain a ring of organic **MULCH** to hold moisture in the soil and add nutrients. Begin at least three inches away from the trunk. Pile the material three inches deep and four to six feet wide.

MONITOR for signs of stress, significant insect damage, leaf loss, discoloration, fungal growth, increased woodpecker activity and other symptoms or disease or pests.

ENJOY your established tree! Watch how it grows, how it changes from season to season, and which animals visit. Rest in the shade, or climb to get a new perspective!



There’s no need to water while a tree is dormant.

PRUNE every three to five years to develop good form and structure, and to reduce the risk of broken branches. Work with a Certified Arborist to ensure this important work is done properly.

SEASONAL CARE OF MATURE TREES



A “mature” urban tree is 50 or more years old.

- Trees in this stage of life often have graceful, solid architecture.
- Growth slows, but the trunk and main branches continue to widen and the tree can still collect and store large amounts of carbon.
- Mature trees continue to reproduce, making seeds that ensure a new generation and feed diverse wildlife.

People are sometimes concerned that mature trees present a risk. In fact, well-maintained mature trees are a terrific asset in the community at large. They’re well worth protecting!

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DORMANT SEASON

Dec Jan Feb Mar

soil is frozen

During periods of drought, **WATER** deeply once every two weeks from the trunk to the dripline. Check the city website for watering restrictions.

Maintain a ring of organic **MULCH** to hold moisture in the soil and add nutrients. Begin at least three inches away from the trunk. Pile the material three inches deep and four to six feet wide.

Work with a Certified Arborist who can periodically **EVALUATE** the risk for serious pests, disease, structural problems or other symptoms of decline.



There’s no need to water while a tree is dormant.

Far less **PRUNING** is needed at this stage. Focus on clearing deadwood to manage potential risks.

ENJOY all the benefits of your mature tree! Trees are much more than lovely landscape features - they are living things with unique characteristics that add real value to your landscape: shade, stormwater and erosion control, pollinator and wildlife habitat, and much more. Trees can even increase your property’s value or improve your health!

SEASONAL CARE OF ELDER TREES



An “elder” tree isn’t defined by its age so much as by changes in its growth habit.

- Branch dieback and stump or water sprouts are normal and should be expected.
- The tree will develop a smaller or thinner crown of leaves.

Elder trees often look quite different from established or mature trees of the same species - but they are still quite valuable, providing many ecological benefits.

Foresters say, “It takes 100 years to grow a 100-year-old tree.” What does that mean? When elder trees are removed, it will be decades before other trees can provide equivalent benefits.

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DORMANT SEASON

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
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During periods of drought, **WATER** deeply once every two weeks from the trunk to the dripline. Check the city website for watering restrictions.

Maintain a ring of organic **MULCH** to hold moisture in the soil and add nutrients. Begin at least three inches away from the trunk. Pile the material three inches deep and four to six feet wide.

As part of your annual routine, continue to **EVALUATE** the risk for serious pests, disease, structural problems or other symptoms of decline.



There’s no need to water or mulch while a tree is dormant.

Work with a Certified Arborist to **PRUNE**, managing branch dieback and planning for other changes in your elder tree.

ENJOY your elder tree! When a tree reaches such a great age, it provides a particular kind of habitat that younger trees cannot. Elder trees support complex communities of microbes, insects and fungi that aid in decomposition, and they benefit diverse wildlife in search of food or a cozy nest cavity.