



## **WATERING FOR TREE ESTABLISHMENT**

**Establishment Period: 1 year after transplanting.**

**Morning is the best time to water your tree.**

**Water your tree directly above the root mass.**

**Rain is a water substitute. Do not water within 12-48 hours of heavy rainfall.**

### **How much water does my tree need?**

1.4 gallons per inch of trunk diameter **per day** during the growing season. Increase the watering to 2.8 gallons per inch of trunk diameter when the temperatures are above 80 degrees, and increase again to 5.6 gallons per inch of trunk diameter when temperatures are above 90. Water directly above the root mass. As you can see the amount of transpiration increases dramatically as the temperature and wind increase.

A transplanted tree does not have the ability to “find” water once the roots are severed. It now is relying on you to provide water for it. A good way to judge whether your tree is getting the correct amount of water is to check the soil prior to watering. Grab a handful of soil and squeeze it in the palm of your hand, if it crumbles when you open your hand it is too dry and you should increase the amount of water you are giving it. If the soil leaches water from it when you squeeze it, then it is showing signs of being over watered and you should decrease the frequency you are watering. What you should see is the soil holding together tightly and being moist without having water leach out of it. This is the perfect balance.



### **How will I know when my tree is established?**

You will be able to tell that your tree is established when it does not wilt after cutting off personal watering to the tree.

### **Potential Wilt-Causing Conditions:**

-Hot days: Days of full sun with 80+ degree temperatures or partial sun with 85+ degree temperatures.

-Humid days.

-Hot and windy days: days of 70+ degrees with winds over 20 mph.

**After establishment, keep a close eye on your tree. Even once your tree is established it will need water when showing signs of wilting.**

**A transplanted tree will not appear at its potential in year 1. Expect it to start looking at its potential in year 2, 3 and beyond.**

### **Is my tree getting too little water or too much?**

Unfortunately, the signs of overwatering are the same as underwatering. The tree will show obvious signs of stress. Normally what you will see is the leaves will start to yellow and wilt with the veins in the leaves being a pronounced shade of green. Do not let your tree become overly stressed. Stress is already taking its toll once you notice wilting leaves or loss of leaves. At this point the tree needs your immediate attention.

It should be your goal to not let the tree wilt. It does not mean it will die if it does. As mentioned above the easiest way of judging the moisture content of the soil is by feeling the soil with your hands and following the weather patterns. If the tree is stressed after a period of dry and hot conditions and the soil crumbles in your hand then you need to increase the watering. If the weather has been cool and wet and the soil is wet when you squeeze it in your hand you need to suspend watering until the soil has less moisture content.