

# Tree Care

Growing a new tree is easy and rewarding. These steps will keep your tree healthy and growing for many years.

## WATER



### When

Water your new tree for the first three years after planting.

### In years one and two:

- Water two times a week during warm months (for periods without rain)
- Water one time a week during cool months (for periods without snow).

### In year three after planting:

- Water two times a week during warm months (for periods without rain)

### In year four and after:

- Your tree will get most of the water it needs by itself. If leaves begin to wilt during hot periods, give it some water. Your tree will thank you!

### How

Turn on a hose for one minute or fill a 5- gallon bucket three times. The ground near the tree trunk should feel very wet. Allow the soil to dry out between each watering. If the ground is already wet, do not water that day. Overwatering can damage the roots.

For more information on caring for your tree, please visit



[dzoo.org/treemanual](http://dzoo.org/treemanual)

For more information on finding an ISA certified arborist, please visit



[dzoo.org/treesgood](http://dzoo.org/treesgood)

## PARTNERSHIPS

**Detroit Tree Equity Partnership**



DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY®



# Caring for my Tree

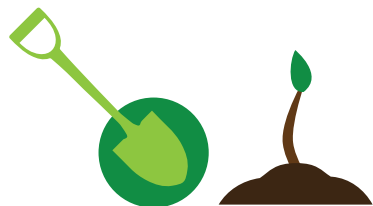


*Trees provide many benefits to neighborhoods and help people, animals and the environment.*

## WEEDS AND MULCH

Remove weeds or other plants growing within the protective barrier around the tree. If the barrier has worn down, add soil prior to mulch.

Mulch should be three fingers or more away from the trunk and extend 3 feet in all directions. The barrier and mulch stop weeds and protect the trunk against mowing or weed trimming.



DAY  
1



### NEW TREE IS PLANTED

- Provides a home and food for insects
- Improves mood and well-being
- Absorbs stormwater

**With just a little bit of care, a tree can grow and provide many benefits to people, animals and the environment. Only three years after planting, a tree cleans the air, reduces flooding, improves mood and well-being, creates homes for animals and supports the community.**



YEAR  
1-3

- Requires water and care
- Serves as a home for birds
- Absorbs stormwater
- Cleans the air



YEAR  
4-35

- May require light pruning. You should consult local tree planting nonprofits or a ISA-certified arborist
- Provides a home and food for small animals
- Decorates scenery with spring and fall colors
- Provides shade and reduces utility bills
- Reduces localized flooding



YEAR  
35+

### ORNAMENTAL TREES

- Nearing the end stages of life. Your ornamental tree may need pruning maintenance as it turns into a snag tree that no longer produces fruit or leaves but still provides valuable habitat for insects and animals.

### YEAR 40+ SHADE TREES

- Many shade trees can live for more than 100 years. The tree you cared for is part of your legacy for future generations.