



TREE MAINTENANCE IN A NUTSHELL

How to Take Care of Your Little Ones During the Formative Years

1. Water once or twice a week (should be done for at least 2 years)
 - New transplants: water *twice* a week for the 1st month
 - Once a week should be sufficient when trees are small, unless it is very dry
 - At least 10 gallons poured down the trunk, so it goes directly to the root ball, in 1 deep soaking (frequent shallow watering encourages roots to surface)
 - After sunset or early in the morning for less evaporation
 - Watering period: late April to mid-October, depending on weather
2. Replace mulch as needed every year (and leave the hay we put down)
 - Retains water and reduces temperature extremes and weeds
 - Keep 2-4" deep with a 2' radius from trunk (use less towards trunk)
 - Do *not* put mulch directly against the trunk (can cause rot and kill the tree)
 - Use organic, biodegradable mulch
 - Herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not necessary
3. Prune *dead* branches only!
 - Transplants need those leaves to grow!
 - Do not prune living branches until the 2nd or 3rd year
 - Never prune main branches back to stubs
4. Do not cut top of trees
 - Disturbs photosynthesis process
 - Makes them vulnerable to insects and disease
5. Do not use weed-whackers or lawnmowers around tree trunks
 - Injury to bark can lead to insects, disease or death
 - Gashes destroy vital tissues
6. Wrap or paint tree trunk for the winter to prevent sunscald (optional)
 - Helps trees avoid breaking dormancy with warm sun rays
 - Remove in the spring to avoid damage and insect harboring



HELPFUL WEBSITES

TREE CARE:

www.friendsoftrees.org

www.treesny.com

www.coopext.colostate.edu/4DMG/Trees/sunscald.htm

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

www.earthworksboston.org

www.bc.edu/bc_org/research/urbaneco

ABOUT ARBORISTS:

www.massarbor.org

www.isa-arbor.com

TREE FACTS:

www.treeinbox.com

www.coloradotrees.org

ALL-ENCOMPASSING TREE INFO:

www.arborday.org

www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Trees/trees.htm

www.treelink.org

*www.treelink.org/books/simpleact/index.htm:

*The Simple Act of Planting a Tree, a magnificent resource book, is available in full text online.

For more information, feel free to email JP Trees: jptreesinfo@gmail.com