



Your Full Service Nursery & Landscape Center  
Since 1987  
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## GENERAL CARE OF DECIDUOUS TREES

### **WATERING:**

Keep newly planted trees moist, but not soggy wet. They need to be deep watered on a regular schedule for the first 1-2 years, until they are well established, at least once a week during the growing season and twice a month in winter. Once they are well established, they require deep soaking at least twice a month. Ideally, a large well should be built around the base of the tree and filled several times each time you water. Or if the tree is on a drip system, several emitters (depending on the size of the tree) should be installed 12-18 inches away from the trunk for each tree. Remember that new tree roots cannot grow into a wall of dry soil. As the tree grows, the emitters should be moved outward so they are at the tree's dripline (tip of the branches).

A good method for checking the moisture content of the soil around the root ball area of the tree is take a thin dowel or bamboo stake and push it down into the root ball area at least a foot or more deep. Leave it there for 10-15 minutes and then pull it up. If it is dry, you definitely need to water more often. If there is enough moisture that the stake is wet or damp, then you do not need to water for several days, depending on your drainage.

It is very important to understand your soil and its ability to drain. Heavy clay soil or soil containing caliche does not drain well, if at all. More trees are killed by over watering soil that does not have the ability to drain than for any other reason. Saturated soil does not allow the roots of the tree to breathe, thereby smothering the root system and ultimately killing the tree. The second main reason for tree death is under watering. From season to season, it is a good thing to test how much moisture your trees receive.

### **FERTILIZER:**

Because of our infertile soil fertilizer should be applied to your trees three times per year. We recommend Mortimer Premium Tree and Shrub Fertilizer, which should be applied according to directions in April and again in July or early August. Then in October-November, give your trees Mortimer Premium Winterizer Fertilizer. This is a special formula which fortifies the tree's root system and provides the energy needed by the trees throughout the winter.

### **INSECT CONTROL:**

Check your trees from time to time for insect damage. The leaves provide necessary energy for tree growth and vigor during the growing season.

Especially in early spring, new tender leaves can be badly damaged or destroyed by hungry insects, often over night.

A good spraying of Dormant Oil with insecticide in the late fall and again in early spring while the tree is still dormant can help to prevent spring insect damage. The oil smothers insect eggs that have been laid in crevices in branches and bark, and the insecticide kills any new insects.

With a good start, your trees will grow and give you beauty and shade, as well as increasing your property values. So protect your investment and enjoy the rewards. It will be well worth it.