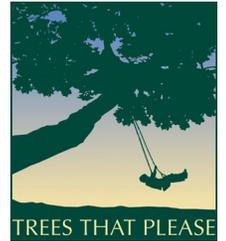


# Tree and Shrub Care – First Season



## Summer Watering

A newly planted tree should be watered approximately once every 3-4 days by soaking the tree canopy drip zone using a sprinkler or due to area or budget constraints by filling a water basin. **Optimum Tree Growth** will occur if you mulch the tree canopy drip zone or basin with organics or wood chips to a depth of 4 to 6 inches, leaving a bare 4-inch to 6 inch area directly around the trunk. (The **ideal** tree planting site is a mulched site, with a radius of 20 feet which is the potential reach of a small tree roots during the first growing season. Soak this zone once per week until the soil is saturated.)

If you have any doubts then check the soils moisture content. Push aside the mulch, and grab a handful of soil. If it is soaking wet then decrease water. If your soil is just moist to dry then it is time to water.

## Feeding or Fertilizing

The Soil Secrets products, **Earth Magic / Protein Crumbles**, may be applied anytime, normally twice annually. These products inoculate your soil with beneficial soil bacteria and mycorrhizae fungi, and much needed **Humus** and provide plant available mineral nutrients. The beneficial mycorrhizae fungi help plants acquire water and nutrients making your landscape stronger and more drought tolerant in the long run. Humus - humus and more humus. Earth Magic is humus and there is no toxicity point to humus. If your soils are awful and you are in doubt use more than the label rate. Nothing else can do what humus and mycorrhizae do!!!!

**TTP Supreme Compost** can also be used, as it is a great organic form of nutrients that remain available to plants in the soil for a greater time than inorganic sources of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. Many of these inorganic sources are water soluble and are carried deeper into the soil and away from the roots with each watering. It is best to avoid chemical fertilizers for this reason. Compost feeding can be done by direct application to the mulch beds around plants and then thoroughly watered in. All fertilizers chemical or organic need to be used properly as too much of even a good thing like our TTP Supreme Compost can cause burn and can cause plants to lose their relationship with the mycorrhizae. Feed with compost twice annually, in spring and fall.

## Winter Watering

As trees go dormant (deciduous trees lose leaves) decrease watering frequency from 7 to 14 to 21 day intervals. Water when able in the winter (i.e. when the ground is not frozen). Young trees / shrubs must be watered during the winter to prevent the root ball from drying out which may result in death of your tree. Winter watering should be done approximately once every 3-4 weeks by soaking the tree canopy drip zone using a sprinkler or by filling the watering basin. Make sure the plant is not soaking in wet mud all winter long which can cause rot. Moist soils not wet are the rule!

## Pruning

Resist the urge to prune and shape during the first season unless there are dead or misshapen branches. Leaving these branches on the plant helps to support growth of new roots and shoots. Pruning can be done during dormancy after the first growing season or anytime (season) thereafter. Winter pruning often increases vigor.

## Staking

Trees planted in high wind areas may require staking. In general, stake your tree loosely on 2 or 3 sides. This allows trunk movement which helps build its strength. Make sure the tree does not rub or bang against the staking!

**This guide is not a guarantee or warranty, but rather is our attempt to help you succeed most of the time, rather than just every once in awhile.**

## **Trees That Please**

**Located at: 3084 HWY 47, Los Lunas, NM 87031**

**Phone 505-866-5027 Email [treesthatplease@comcast.net](mailto:treesthatplease@comcast.net)**