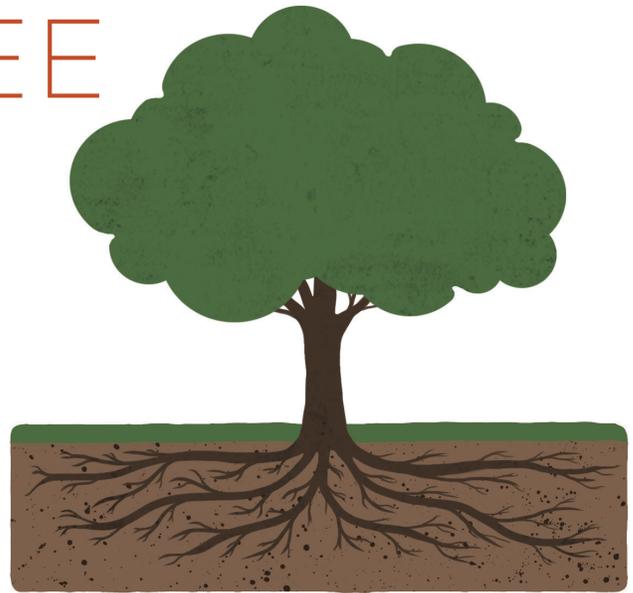


# CARING FOR YOUR YOUNG TREE

The first 3 years are critical for the establishment of your tree. Proper watering, mulching, and other tree care will help ensure a healthy mature tree and reduce future maintenance costs.



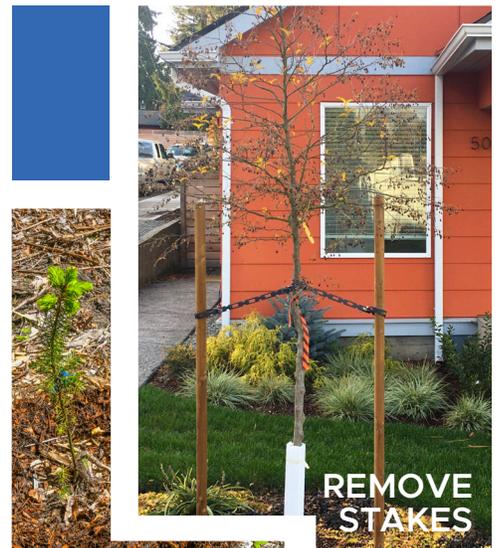
## WATER YOUR TREE FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS.

Young trees require regular watering for good health and disease prevention. Deep watering will encourage your tree to grow a robust root system.

- Give your tree 15 gallons (slowly), once or twice a week throughout the summer.
  - › Water should always be applied slowly. Use a 5-gallon bucket with holes drilled in the bottom, a garden hose set on low for 30 minutes, or a tree water bag.
- Check soil for proper watering 4 to 6 inches below the surface. Soil should feel damp, not dry or saturated.

## REMOVE ANY STAKES OR SUPPORTS

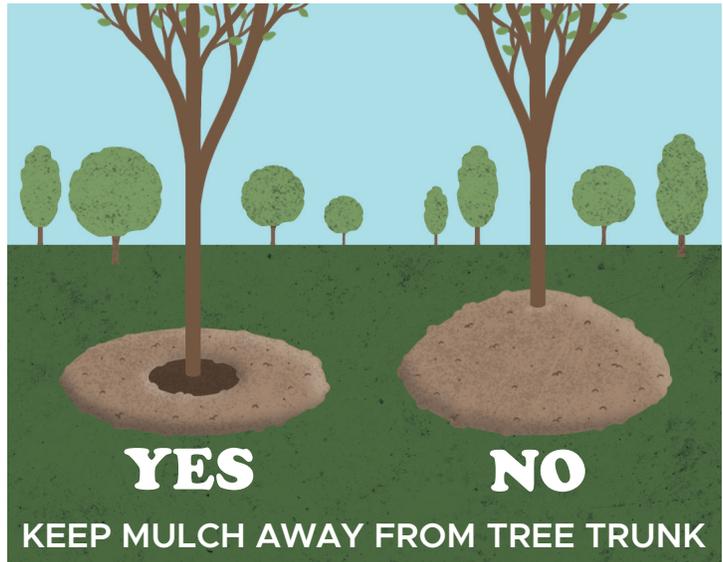
installed with your tree within one year of planting. Test if stakes are ready to be removed by grasping the base of the tree trunk and gently shaking it. If the soil around the tree does not move, the roots have stabilized the tree. The stakes can then be removed. **DO NOT leave stakes on longer than necessary** – if the trunk is larger than the stakes, the stakes should be removed.



## MAINTAIN A MULCH RING.

Mulch keeps soil moist, limits weed growth, and protects tree trunks from lawnmower and weed-eater injuries.

- Use organic matter such as wood chips or fallen leaves.
- Maintain a 3 to 6-inch thick mulch layer, extending at least as far as the drip line. As the tree continues to grow larger throughout its life, its dripline will move further out, requiring a larger circle of mulch.
- Keep mulch a hands-width away from tree trunk.



## WEED AROUND YOUR TREE.

Grass and weeds compete with the tree for water and nutrients.

- Remove any competing plants, such as grass and weeds, within at least 2 feet of the tree's trunk.

## PRUNE.

Pruning of newly planted trees should be limited to the removal of dead or broken branches. All other pruning should not occur until the second or third year, when a tree has recovered from the stress of transplanting. For information about proper pruning, please contact the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224 or visit [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org).



Kirkland Public Works -  
Surface Water Division  
[www.kirklandwa.gov/stormwater](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/stormwater)



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