

# Ohio Chapter ISA: Properly WATER your TREES

The Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture is committed to advancing responsible tree care practices through research, technology, and education while promoting the benefits of trees. We remind those who own and manage trees, that trees need to be supplemental watered when site conditions merit.

There are over 1,000 qualified tree experts in the state of Ohio that have been designated by the ISA as Certified Arborists. To find an ISA Certified Arborist in your area, visit [www.Trees4Ohio.org](http://www.Trees4Ohio.org).

## Basic Tree Watering Guideline

**Young Trees (<25 years):** water the roots around the trunk (not the trunk itself, and not the area outside the root ball). It is recommended to create and maintaining a 3-foot wide, 1" to 3" deep organic (wood chip) mulch ring around the trunk for its entire life, to help maintain soil moisture.  
**DO NOT PUT MULCH AGAINST THE TRUNK**

**Mature trees (>25 years):** or those with a trunk **more than 12" (30 cm) in diameter**, water deep and occasionally. About 10 gallons per 1 inch of trunk diameter per week (example: a tree with 12" DBH would receive 120 gallons) during drought.

**Mature Trees** with 12" in trunk diameter, or established trees, generally require less consistent care, but during droughts every tree must be monitored and watered accordingly.

### **Watering Methods:**

- Slow-release water bags
- 5-gallon bucket with drilled holes at bottom
- Drip, bubbler, hose or overhead irrigation

\*For best results always ensure that your delivery method is slow and persistent

### **Tree Tip:**

Watering is crucial for the survival and growth of all types of trees; especially during the summer. In fact, research has shown that in the Midwest root growth is most active during these months. For example, on average in Ohio a tree with a 10' wide canopy can require as much as 100 gallons per day.

\*Limited available water can cause a tree to become susceptible to decline from pathogens.

### **Self-Assessment Water Check:**

HOW do I check if my soil has enough water?

Use a screwdriver to get down 2-3 inches into the soil. If your soil feels moist to the touch you have adequate water, but if it feels dry it is time to WATER.