



## City Of Dalton Tree Care Tips

### Watering

Watering a newly planted tree is essential for helping it establish strong, healthy roots. After planting, water the tree deeply to settle the soil and remove air pockets. For the first 1–2 weeks, water daily or every other day, depending on weather and soil type. After that, water 2–3 times per week for the next few months. Apply water slowly at the base of the tree, soaking the root ball and surrounding soil 6–12 inches deep. Avoid light, frequent sprinkling, which encourages shallow roots.

#### **How much water does a new tree need?**

Generally, 5–15 gallons per watering, depending on tree size and climate. A typical garden hose will produce approximately 10 gallons per minute for reference.

#### **How do I know if I'm overwatering?**

Soggy soil, yellowing leaves, or a constantly wet surface may indicate too much water.

#### **What's the best time to water?**

Early morning or late afternoon to reduce evaporation.

#### **When can I reduce watering?**

After the first growing season, gradually reduce frequency as the tree becomes established.

### Mulching

Applying a 2-inch to 4-inch-thick layer of mulch around the root zone of a tree improves moisture retention, weed suppression and helps regulate soil temperature; further giving new planted trees the best chance at survival. If mulch is applied, it is recommended to leave a four-to-six-inch buffer between the base of the tree and the mulch ring as to ensure mulch is not piled up at the tree trunk. Mulch that is placed at the base of the tree can lead to insect issues and rot. A standard hardwood or pine mulch is recommended, while dyed or treated mulch is not recommended.