



## Hi Everyone, It's Tree Watering Time Again!

Just like people, trees can get stressed. During last summer's drought, experts predicted up to 20% more trees might die from the lack of rain. This summer, our trees are still stressed and at risk, and we're already experiencing a lack of rainfall.

**WHY?** The Forestry division of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board plants new trees on boulevards. But due to limited budgets and staffing, Forestry can't keep up with watering them. That means our young trees are not going to survive or thrive without our help providing the regular watering they need to grow.

Trees provide numerous benefits, including:

- beauty and shade
- habitat for wildlife
- a healthier urban environment.
- energy savings
- absorption of water runoff
- air pollution control
- carbon sequestration

**WHEN?** Trees need at least 1 to 1.5 inches of rain **weekly**; if they don't get that amount of rain, you can help care for them by watering. (In fact, in really hot, dry, windy conditions, newly planted trees can benefit from an *extra* weekly watering.)

**Newly planted trees**, for the first 3-5 years after planting, need a deep weekly watering from when the ground thaws in spring through when their leaves drop in the fall. You might notice your tree is thirsty if its leaves look dull, droopy, or slightly curled. ***Follow the watering tips on the back of this page.***

**Mature trees** need water, too. It's an even bigger loss when mature trees die. ***Follow the watering instructions on the back of this page***, keeping in mind that older, bigger trees will need more water than young saplings.

**HOW?** There are several ways to water young trees when it hasn't rained enough:

**Water bags.** If your tree has a watering bag, fill it up once a week (20-25 gallons).

**Garden hoses.** If you have a hose, set it to a trickle and put it on the ground below the "four corners" of your tree's canopy. Once a week, let it trickle for 2 hours on one corner, 2 hours on the next, 2 hours on the next, and 2 hours on the final corner.

**Soaker hoses.** Once a week, put a soaker hose around the base of the tree, at least a foot from the trunk, & water at a trickle for 6-8 hours. With all hoses, make sure water isn't running off into street – adjust the position or water pressure if needed.

**Buckets.** Slowly pour 4 five-gallon buckets of water over the tree roots around the canopy's edge. Don't pour water directly onto the trunk, as the trunk could rot.

**No hose? No bucket?No problem!** During hot weather, use a watering can or gallon jug to water trees daily. A deeper watering is healthier for trees, but lighter daily watering could save a new tree during a drought.

**Mulching.** Want to go the extra mile? Remove weeds around your tree, and mulch around the tree with wood chips. Weeds and grass compete for your tree's water.

**Need help? Ask a neighbor!** If you would like assistance with watering or are going to be out of town for a stretch, ask around. Many neighbors, landlords, and property managers want to help out.

Info and encouragement provided by your fellow neighbors in the Seward Tree Group. Get in touch at [atasewardtreegroup@gmail.com](mailto:atasewardtreegroup@gmail.com) This watering effort is endorsed by the Seward Neighborhood Group.

**Additional Resources:**

Excellent video, "3 Ways to Water a Tree":

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/caring-pruning.html>

<https://extension.umn.edu/my-minnesota-woods/caring-trees-dry-weather>

Boulevard Trees:

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/trees/boulevard\\_trees/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/trees/boulevard_trees/)