

## Tree Establishment Water Schedule

- Planting holes should be twice the width of root ball and have sloping sides.
- Root ball should be 1" above grade.
- Berm should be outside the planting hole with no mulch over root ball or against trunk.

Use this schedule in growing season when rainfall is absent. When rain occurs, you must adjust watering down to match. If tree planted in dormant season start with 3<sup>rd</sup> month frequency.

Watering new trees is critical to their success. There are 3 things you must do right, how often (frequency), amount of water (measured gallons) and how the water is applied.

### Frequency

- 1st Month – water every other day over root ball only
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Month - water 2 x week over root ball only
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Month – water 1 x week but extending the area out a few feet
- Next 6 months – water 2 x month extending the area further out beyond drip line
- Next summer – water 1-2 x month from April through October from base to beyond drip line

Always match your watering to the seasonal demand and amount of rainfall that is occurring. The first 6 inches or so of soil should be saturated on each water event. Test soil moisture down to bottom and outside root ball. It should be somewhere between hard dry and mud.

### Water Amount

- 1 to 5 gallons per diameter inch depending on soil type, tree size
- Amount remains same per watering event for first 3 months

### How to Water

- Watering over root ball can be done with a 5 gallon bucket with nail holes, a Treegator bag or by hand if you first calibrate how much water you are putting out in a given time. Easy way to do this is to fill a 5 gallon bucket with the spray nozzle set as you would when watering. Count how many seconds it takes to fill and get a "seconds per gallon" so you can count how long to water.
- Watering with sprinklers is not advised due to high evaporation rate and runoff that occurs. It is also more difficult to measure how much water is being applied.
- Once the tree roots begin to move out into surrounding soil (maybe 3 months) you will need to change how and where you are watering to follow the roots. The best way to water is with drip hose. For more information on how to do this Refer to the other guideline on the website titled **Tree Water Schedule – Mature Trees**