

Healthy Trees = Healthy Communities

Save Water and Save Trees



Safeguarding our water resources and protecting our urban forest are equally essential to the sustainability of our community, and both must go hand in hand. We must keep our trees healthy as we continue saving water during the current drought.

Following are important tips for Santa Ana residents to properly care for and protect their trees from drought stress.

First, learn to recognize early signs of drought stress to prevent irreversible damage to trees. Drought stress trees are more prone to damage from diseases and insects. Common symptoms include wilting or drooping leaves that do not return to normal by evening; curled or yellowed leaves that may fold or drop; foliage that becomes grayish and loses its green luster; and new leaves that are smaller than normal.

Second, know your trees and their needs. Below and illustrated are a few simple tree care steps based on size and age that will help you also conserve water:

Third, don't forget that watering city street trees in front of your property is **your** responsibility!



Large and Mature Trees

- 1 Slowly water the "drip zone" area directly beneath the foliage and shaded area by the tree.
- 2 Water once a week with about 5 gallons of water directly into the soil with a hose or bucket.
A simple watering of 20 minutes, twice a month can save the mature trees
- 3 Use a "soaker head" with your hose that drips only the slightest of water.
- 4 Add mulch to lower soil temperatures and reduce water evaporation.
- 5 Consider installing a drip watering system that will soak the root system.



Small and Newly Planted Trees

- Young trees need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.
- Watering with a hose or bucket once or twice a week with about 5 gallons of water will make the difference in the survival of young trees.
- Add four to six inches of mulch to lower soil temperatures and reduce water evaporation.
- For newly planted trees, fill the watering basin and occasionally buffer the basin with soil.

every **drop** counts
LET'S NOT WASTE IT



For additional information on water conservation, how to help your trees survive the drought, and general tree care, please visit santa-ana.org/waterconservation/ and santa-ana.org/streettreeservices. Any questions? Call City of Santa Ana Public Works Agency at 714-647-3380.