

## Tips on Caring for Your Tree

### Water

- Water is crucial for your tree's survival, particularly during the first year after planting.**
- Give your tree approximately 15-20 gallons of water once a week from March through November, and as often as twice a week during hot and dry weather.
- Trickle water onto the soil surface using a hose, or allow water to seep from a bucket with small holes in the bottom. For optimal watering, buy a Treegator watering bag online or at a local greening shop.

### Weed & Clean

- Weeds and trash can prevent water from reaching your tree's roots and cause a decline in your tree's health, so remove these items as soon as they appear.**
- Prevent toxic substances such as motor oil, de-icing salt, detergent, leaking garbage, and animal urine and feces from entering the soil and damaging your tree.

### Mulch

- Mulch helps to conserve water, control weeds, keep roots cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and prevent damage and soil compaction.**
- Maintain a 2-4 inch layer of mulch around your tree, taking care NOT to pack it against the trunk.
- Recommended mulches include wood chips, composted leaves and pine needles.
- Always remember to weed and cultivate the soil before mulching.

### Cultivate the Soil

- Loosening the soil surface around your tree encourages water and air to enter the soil.**
- Cultivate the soil seasonally to ensure your tree's growth, particularly in the spring.
- Prevent soil compaction by not walking or piling trash bags or rocks around the tree's roots.
- If the soil surface around your tree becomes compacted, loosen the first few inches of soil and break up any large clumps, avoiding any damage to large roots near the surface.

### Protect

- Street trees often need security from the high-traffic conditions that prevail in an urban area.**
- Keep car doors, dogs, and bicycles away from the trunk to avoid potential wounds or cuts.
- Fencing is a good way to create a barrier around your tree without reducing the surface area of your tree pit; iron, wood, plastic, or wires are all suitable depending on your budget.
- If you lay dry brick or stone around your tree, keep them at least 6 inches away from the trunk, and do not use mortar or cement to secure bricks; they deny natural water flow in and out of the tree pit.

### Remove Tree Straps, Prune Minimally

- Remove straps left on your tree for over a year; they may cut into the bark & strangle the tree.**
- Wooden stakes can be left in place for an extra year or two to prevent car doors from injuring tree.
- Prune minimally on newly planted trees, only to remove broken branches.

### Plant Flowers

- As flowers wilt in the summer heat, they will remind you to water your tree.**
- Plant annuals around your tree, such as impatiens, begonias, and marigolds. Avoid perennials that will compete with your tree's roots for water.