

Tree Care Recommendations – post planting

Caring for a tree after planting is fairly simple and the following rules of thumb usually apply:

Weeks 1 & 2

After planting, water thoroughly with a hosepipe, soaking the soil in the planting hole and surrounding soil up to a meter from the tree. By doing this you allow air pockets in the backfill to collapse and the soil particles to settle around the roots.

After the first watering, you should skip a day and water thoroughly again.

After this you could reduce watering frequency to twice a week. It's best to water by hand if possible at this stage and not with the irrigation system to ensure the trees receive an adequate amount.

Weeks 3 - 6

Continue watering twice a week, applying enough to thoroughly soak the planting hole (20L water for a 60L tree and 40L water for a 125L tree should be adequate).

If in doubt, a good deep soaking, less often is always better than frequent shallow watering.

Deep, less frequent soaks result in the following:

- Allows the roots to reach deeper and eventually find their own source of ground water, thereby saving on your water bill once established.
- Roots are not forced to search for water in your lawn and flower beds, and therefore less likely to compete with the plants growing nearby.
- Trees established in this way are more stable and don't blow over as easily.

**** Watering frequency at all stages should be adjusted according to weather conditions. If for example the tree is planted in winter or there is a cold spell and the soil remains wet, then feel free to skip another day or so between watering. As long as the soil is fairly damp below the top 5 to 10cm, then the tree should still have sufficient moisture not to wilt. Don't be tempted to keep the soil surface constantly wet. To allow oxygen into the root zone and prevent root rot it's critical that you allow the top 5 – 10cm of soil to dry out between watering, so monitor this carefully.****

Thereafter

Monitor your trees for signs of stress (such as drooping leaves), and carefully reduce watering frequency, but not quantity. An established tree should only require a weekly soak to maintain active growth when young. You may find that the soil remains wet in winter (in the Cape), and you can hold back on watering completely until spring.

Fertilize with a cupful of 3:1:5 fertilizer spread evenly around the root zone of the tree (not close to the stem) in spring and autumn, and watered in thoroughly. Gradually increase this by a cupful every year as the tree grows (unless it's a very small tree or in a confined planter).

Please note that this is a courtesy guideline for care of your tree/s after planting. Plant Culture accepts no responsibility for damages, losses or consequential losses for any instructions given. The onus rests with the individual caring for the tree/s to research and apply the necessary steps to ensure the continued wellbeing of the tree/s.