



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

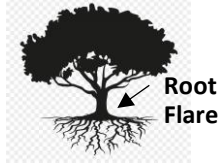
Newly Planted Tree Care Guide

Thank you for hosting a city tree on your street or property!

Our trees provide numerous environmental benefits, from bringing much needed shade to curbing climate change. Newly planted trees are under stress and need extra care.

The first priority of a newly planted tree is to grow roots. You won't see much growth above ground for the first year or two while the root system is becoming established. Following these guidelines will help your new tree develop a healthy root system so the tree will continue to grow, providing benefits for years to come.

The DO's and DON'Ts of caring for a new tree

<p>DO Water!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water 3 to 4 times per week for the first few weeks, then 2 to 3 times per week during the growing season for the first couple of years. Water thoroughly over the area right around the tree trunk that corresponds to the size of the root ball. 	<p>...but DON'T Fertilize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because fertilizer encourages foliage growth, don't apply any during the first year. Without fertilizer, the tree will put its energy into establishing a strong root system in its new location.
<p>DO Mulch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place mulch around the tree going out about 18" from the trunk, leaving the first 3" from the trunk clear. The mulch should be 2-3" in depth. Mulch keeps the soil moist and limits weed growth. Use natural mulch (with no artificial additives or colors) such as pine/spruce mixed mulch; hemlock, cedar, natural bark mulches; or pine needles, etc. 	<p>...but DON'T Over Mulch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't pile up mulch on the tree trunk. This is known as a mulch volcano. Mulch volcanoes attract fungi, pests and diseases that can harm the tree. The root flare at the base of the trunk should be visible. Don't build planter boxes or planting rings around tree trunks. 
<p>Do Weed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep all weeds, grass, flowers and other plants away from the trunk of a new tree (at least 18"). Pull weeds by hand. Weeds and grass absorb water and nutrients that should be going to the roots. 	<p>...but DON'T Damage the Bark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep lawnmowers and weed whackers away from the trunk. Don't lean anything on the tree or puncture the bark with nails or screws. Damage to the bark could kill the tree.
<p>Do Inspect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the tree annually for damage, broken limbs, disease, insects or other distressing factors that might cause harm to the tree. Report possible damage to the Salem Tree Warden, Bob LeBlanc: rleblanc@salem.com 	<p>...but Don't Prune</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A young tree needs all the nutrition it can get from its leaves to help develop strong roots. During the first year after planting, only broken or dead branches should be removed.