

TREE NEWS

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YOU CAN USE

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

YOUR TREE MAY BE THIRSTY!

If you planted any trees in recent years, the summer growing season can be exciting as they become established and begin growing. However, with soaring heat, water demand from these young trees may be high, and insufficient moisture may impede tree health and growth in these early stages. In this issue, we'll examine causes, signs, and potential remediations.

When trees are planted, they are subjected to many stressors. These commonly include a significant change in growing environment and severed/damaged roots. Almost all transplanted trees will have a reduced capacity for water uptake thanks to root damage acquired during planting. Environmental factors to consider include increased sun exposure and resource competition from other plants in the area. The combination of these factors means young, unestablished trees are highly susceptible to drought stress, even if your other plants seem healthy!

While we typically recommend giving newly planted trees extra water even if they do not exhibit signs of stress, there are some indicators to be aware of:

1. **Persistent wilt:** While it is common for leaves to “droop” in the heat of the day, they should return to normal overnight. If they do not, more water may be required.
2. **Changing leaves:** Healthy leaves should be large and green. If there seems to be a change in appearance, it may be connected to drought stress. This can manifest as yellowing/browning, early fall coloration, dropping leaves, small new leaves, or curling/scorch.
3. **Reduced growth/dieback:** If trees are undergoing drought stress, cellular expansion is reduced, and growth is slowed. In severe cases, new growth may die back.



Watering bags

Fortunately, drought stress has an obvious solution: MORE WATER!

While the solution is simple, there are some delivery methods and best practices. You may consider purchasing a tree watering bag. These high-capacity bags will allow water to slowly infiltrate the soil throughout the day meaning a greater proportion is available for root uptake. You might also consider adding a ring of mulch around your newly installed trees! Mulch will help moderate soil temperature, retain moisture, and reduce water competition from grasses/ground cover. There are many hydration and irrigation options available, so you'll likely be able to find one that fits your needs.



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Watering bag

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