

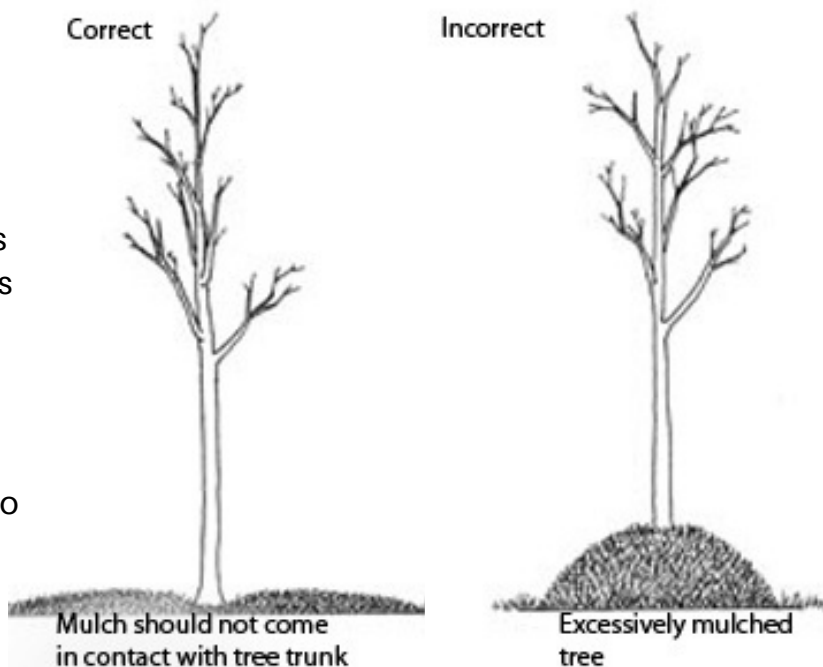
Tree Care Instructions

Watering

When watering, trees need a deep soak on the roots, running a hose at the base of your tree for 1-2 minutes. For the first 2-3 weeks after planting, you should water the trees 3-4 times per week. After that, trees should be watered for three years, year-round. Depending on rainfall, once a week during the warm season, and every other week during the winter. Trees still need watered during the winter season, and this will help insulate the roots from freezes.

Mulching

Mulching will ward off competition for nutrients (grass) and keep soil from drying out. This helps retain moisture and keep your trees thriving. Mulch can be applied anytime, but it is good to mulch **every spring before the warm season**. Mulch should be applied 3-4" deep and pulled back 1-2" away from the base of the tree trunk to avoid rot.



Pruning

Pruning will ensure your tree has healthy new growth and a good, sturdy shape in its later years. It is best to prune your trees when they are dormant, during winter months.

Protecting your Trees

Ensure when mowing or weedeating around trees that you **do not come in contact with the trunk**. This will affect its ability to absorb nutrients and water and affect the long-term health of your tree.

Staking Trees

If your tree needs staked, it should only be for the first 6-8 months. Staked for longer than this, it can impact the tree's ability to support itself. It should not be staked so tight that it is immobilized - some swaying in the wind will help strengthen your tree. To stake a tree, you need two long stakes, two pieces of rubber hose or a tree sling, and wire/twine. Drive the stakes into the ground a foot or so away from the tree (not into the rootball) on opposite sides of the tree. Thread the wire into a hose or tree sling, with the hose protecting the trunk of the tree. Wrap the wire and hose around the trunk, and secure to the stakes. Repeat with the other side. Check the stakes periodically to make sure they are not too tight and causing a sore on the tree.

