



Enjoy your new trees!



PRUNING

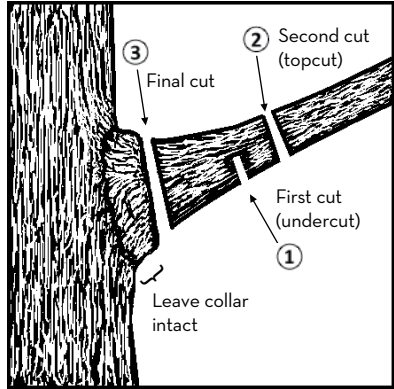


Illustration by Kyle Reisner

Prune ONLY dead and broken branches in the first 3 years.

Pruning for aesthetics is not recommended during this time. See above diagram and resources below for proper pruning techniques, or contact your DCR Urban Forester.

PLANTING NOTES:

Date Planted:

Your Tree(s):

Remember to water your trees for 2 years after planting!

DCR Urban Forester Contact Info:

TREE CARE GUIDE

Learn how to water, mulch, protect, and maintain your newly planted trees!



Department of Conservation & Recreation
Urban & Community Forestry
Greening the Gateway Cities Program

For more information about our program please visit us online at:

MAURBANCANOPY.ORG

TREE CARE RESOURCES



Greening the Gateway Cities works with host cities and local non-profit partners, and in coordination with the following Commonwealth departments, under the umbrella of the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs:

DCR Urban & Community Forestry Program

66 Mill Street
Belmont, MA 02452
www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf



CARING FOR NEW TREES

WATERING



Water each tree once per week with 15 gallons of water.

Water more often if the weather is hot and dry. Lawn sprinklers and rainfall are not adequate because they only reach the top few inches of soil. Tree roots need a deep saturation of water.

Water slowly.

Long, slow watering saturates deep into the soil so the tree can grow a strong, healthy root system.

Water weekly for 2 years.

Begin watering in the spring after the ground thaws. Continue watering weekly until the ground freezes in the winter. This timeframe is approximately from April to November.

MULCHING



Use the 3-3-3 method when applying mulch.

Apply 3 inches of mulch, 3 inches away from the tree trunk, in a 3-foot-wide ring. This low mulch ring will help retain water, build organic matter, and keep down weeds. Fertilizer is not recommended.

Do not plant inside mulched area.

Reserve this space for tree roots only. Keeping the area free of grass, flowers and weeds limits competition.

Don't be fooled into creating mulch volcanoes, a common landscaping mistake. This practice leads to trunk rot, insect and rodent damage, and poor root structure.



Photo by Joe Boggs, OSU Extension

PROTECTING



Keep mowers and trimmers away from trees.

The living tissue is near the outside of the tree and can easily be damaged. When bark is damaged, water and nutrient distribution in the tree is restricted. Trunk damage also causes trees to be more susceptible to harmful insects and diseases.

Do not tie ropes, chains, leashes, wires, or other materials around trees.

They can deform, injure, and even kill trees.

Remove stakes after one full growing season.

Stakes and ties will damage trees when left on too long. A tree grows stronger when it moves in the breeze. Stakes, without ties, may be left after one year to protect the tree.