



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR TREES IN A DROUGHT

We're in a Drought!

It's true. In fact, we are in one of the worst droughts California has ever experienced. Our community is taking big steps to use water responsibly. As we continue to prioritize our water use, it is important to remember one of our greatest assets: trees. During times of drought, trees need a little extra help getting enough water.

To ensure that trees survive the stress of drought, Pomona residents are permitted to water trees and shrubs. Why is it important that trees survive the drought? Not only do they provide countless benefits to communities but they are a big time investment. A new lawn can be installed in a weekend, but a mature tree takes at least 50 years to grow!

CHECK

How do you know if your tree needs to be watered? Check! Use a screwdriver or other tool and stick it 6-8 inches into the ground. If the soil is dry and crumbly, it may be time to water again. How often will you need to water? Every tree is different, but generally young trees will need watering 1-3 times a week (depending on the temperature) and mature trees will need watering 1-2 times each month.

WATER

When watering your tree, think **low** and **slow**. Water at ground level to avoid losing water to evaporation. Use a watering tool with a slow, steady release to make sure water soaks into the ground. The goal is to get the water to the roots, which are typically 12-18 inches below the ground. Mature trees should be watered near the canopy edge rather than at the trunk. Don't forget to limit your watering times to before 10 am and after 6 pm.

MULCH

Adding a little mulch around your tree can make a big difference. Mulch can help keep moisture in the soil and protect your tree's roots from extreme heat. Simply layer about 4 inches of mulch on the ground surrounding your tree, making sure to leave about 6 inches of empty space between the trunk of the tree and where the mulch begins. Chino Basin Water Conservation District has **FREE** mulch! For more information on mulch, contact 909-626-2711 or cbwcd.org

City of Pomona Public Works Department

For more information contact 909-620-3671 or visit: www.ci.pomona.ca.us