



# Tree Care Tips from Trees Atlanta

If you have questions about young tree care or need assistance, please reach out or visit [www.treesatlanta.org](http://www.treesatlanta.org) for videos, tutorials, and tree care resources. Thank you for helping us care for Atlanta's urban canopy!

## Watering

As a general rule, apply 10 gallons of water every other week all at once during your new tree's first growing season (April-October). This encourages roots to expect infrequent but deep watering. Continue to water evergreen trees throughout the winter. Watering should be focused where the roots are, which for one- to two-year-old trees is right around the base.

**What does 10 gallons of water look like?** Ten gallons of water is about a minute's worth of water from a garden hose, or two full Home Depot buckets.

**How do I know if my tree needs more or less water?** Depending on soil and rain conditions, trees may need more or less water. The soil should not stay saturated, but have time to dry out between waterings. If the soil is moist two inches deep, no need to water. If the soil feels dry, water your tree.

## Mulching

Applying a thin, two- to four-inch layer of organic mulch improves the soil structure and oxygen levels, regulates temperature and moisture availability, and prevents weeds. **Please do not pile mulch up around the base of your tree's trunk!** Piled mulch can lead to insect problems and rot. Dyed or treated mulch can leach harmful chemicals into the soil.

## Staking

A tree may need staking when it's young. Place a stake outside the planting hole area and tie the tree to the stake so that the tree is straight. Tie the tree with just enough tension to keep it from leaning, but not so much that the tree can't move around in the wind. The tree needs to be able to move to establish an adequate root system.

**Never use a material harder than the tree's wood to tie it up.** We recommend ArborTie or soft woven strapping. Avoid wire, chains, fishingline, rope, or string. Leave stakes for one growing season. Remove the bamboo in the fall after your tree's first summer. You can find more information about staking trees on our website.

## Pruning

Trees are best pruned when they're young, and proper pruning is essential for excellent structure and tree health. Improper pruning can irreparably harm a tree. Sound intriguing? Sign up for our free pruning classes to learn everything you need to know about properly pruning your young tree!

## Questions? We're here to help!

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