

Tips on Watering Newly Planted Trees (Water Management)

- **The most effective moisture management begins with weed control. Control weeds for a minimum of a 3' diameter around tree (chemical and/or mechanical, or mulch).**
- **On newly planted trees (with a limited root system), on a harsh site, some method to reduce wind and sun stress yields substantial benefits (shingles, standing stubble, rows of corn, tree shelters, etc.).**
- **Harvest snow when possible (snow fences or corn rows). On small stock, the potential of snow breakage to limbs from deep snow is less than the benefits of protecting the plants from winter winds and adding additional moisture.**
- **Organic mulch, such as wood chips, reduces evaporation and controls weeds. Coarse, ragged chips will resist high winds better than fine chips or sawdust. Synthetic tree mats (fabric) are also commercially available.**
- **Water demand increases as trees grow. In the absence of timely rains, newly planted seedlings should receive 5 gallons per week during the growing season. For the following two years, trees should receive 10 gallons per week every other week. Water can be applied by bucket, hose, or drip irrigation systems. Five gallon buckets with a 1/8" hole in the side (drilled near bottom) can be placed by the tree and used to speed up watering (they can be filled quickly while allowing water to soak into soil slowly. Place 1-2 bricks in bucket to prevent blowing away when empty).
Avoid shallow, frequent watering. It encourages the shallow rooting of trees and, without weed control, your only watering the weeds (grass).*
- **Drip irrigation is a very effective method of supplying needed water in the establishment of trees and shrubs. Drip systems cost \$2-3 per plant for larger plantings.**