

CLAREMONT TREE EMERGENCY

SAVE WATER OR SAVE TREES? WE CAN DO BOTH!



WHAT TREES DO FOR US:

- Our abundant urban forest is a large part of what makes our community special.
- Property values are higher, commercial sales greater, and crime is lower in areas with good tree canopies.
- Trees produce oxygen for us to breathe while absorbing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. They filter particulates out of the air.
- A single large tree can cool the air as much as 10 room air conditioners, humidify the air, and reduce wind, resulting in lower home energy costs.
- Leaves slow rain so it can be absorbed, replenishing ground water rather than sending it into storm drains.
- Trees support wildlife and keep us connected to nature.
- Areas with trees encourage outdoor activity, increase social interactions, and decrease stress.
- Trees reduce noise pollution by as much as 40% and protect us from glare and exposure to too much UV light.
- An average large tree provides many thousands of dollars in benefits over its life!

WATERING TREES DURING A DROUGHT

WHO All of us benefit from our home and city trees! If you've reduced landscape water, make sure all your trees still get enough (our municipal code does require us to water our parkway trees).

WHEN Most mature trees only need a good, deep soaking once or twice a month. Young trees need a soaking every 1 or 2 weeks. If a tree's leaves start to wilt, look grayish or yellow, or edges start to brown or curl, water as soon as allowed.

WHERE Most tree roots are in the top 2 to 3 feet of the soil. Water needs to soak down this far in the circle that extends from the trunk to the edge of the canopy.

HOW Water the entire root area using (1) a hand-held hose with a shut off valve for 15 to 20 minutes, making sure that water soaks in rather than runs off, or (2) drip irrigation or a soaker hose for one or more hours so the water penetrates deeply enough. Either way, the next day dig down 18 inches and see if the soil is damp. If not, water longer – deep watering is essential! When trees are coping with reduced watering, don't stimulate growth by fertilizing them or add stress by pruning more than dead or diseased wood. Keep mulch away from the trunk to prevent rot, and keep water 6 feet away from the base of established California oaks.

WHY While we do need to work toward a more climate-appropriate landscape, we want trees to be a part of that. It takes a long time for trees to mature, but if we water wisely, the cost to keep them alive during the drought doesn't need to be great. With your help, we can reduce water use and still keep the benefits of being a City of Trees!

HELP PRESERVE OUR URBAN FOREST

Visit sustainableclaremont.org and claremontheritage.org for more information.

HOW TO KEEP TREES ALIVE IN THE DROUGHT

In times of drought, our city's trees need our help. When we cut down on watering our landscapes, our trees suffer. A tree may look healthy, but without regular watering it can become stressed and die. Look around your neighborhood. Stressed trees are everywhere: dry and sparse leaf coverage, dead and dying branches. When it comes to sharing our water, trees should be our priority!



WATERING YOUNG TREES

How often: About once a week.

How much: About 15-20 gallons of water (3 or 4 5-gallon buckets).

How to do it: Create a 3-4 foot wide basin around the tree to hold the water. Use a bucket to deliver water slowly into the basin.

CHECK FIRST!

Dig your finger down into the soil at least four inches and check for moisture. If the soil below ground is still wet, don't water. If it is dry, give the tree water.

USE CAPTURED WATER!

Collect excess water from indoor use – put a bucket in the shower while it warms up! Or install a series of rain barrels or a cistern to collect rain water.

MULCH!

Add a four inch layer of mulch or wood chips covering the soil around the tree. If used, cover the in-line emitter hose as well.

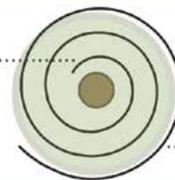
WATERING MATURE TREES

How often: About once or twice a month.

How much: Water needs to soak down at least 18". Measure using a "soil probe" available at home improvement stores. The size of the tree and kind of soil will determine how much water is needed.

How to do it: If you can, use "in-line emitter tubing hose" found at home improvement stores. Start about 9" from the trunk. Spiral it outward, forming concentric circles out to the drip line. Consult the store specialist for how to connect to your water source. Run it until the water depth is at least 18" (this could take 1 or more hours).

Start 9" from the tree



End at edge of outer branches

WHAT ELSE?

Visit www.TreePeople.org for more resources including workshops, tours, project toolkits, volunteering opportunities and more!

CONTACT THE SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCE CENTER AT (909) 625-8767 EXT 238 WITH QUESTIONS.

SUPPORTERS

City of Claremont • Claremont Garden Club • Claremont Heritage • Drought Resistant Irrigation Program (DRIP) • Interfaith Sustainability Council • League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area • Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden • Sustainable Claremont • Tree Action Group

For information on Claremont's current watering restrictions call (909) 399-5460 or go to www.ci.claremont.ca.us and look for "Water" under the "Living" tab.

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