

Trees and the Drought:

How to help your trees survive our extreme weather

1. Mulch

Organic mulches retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and decompose providing nutrients for the tree.



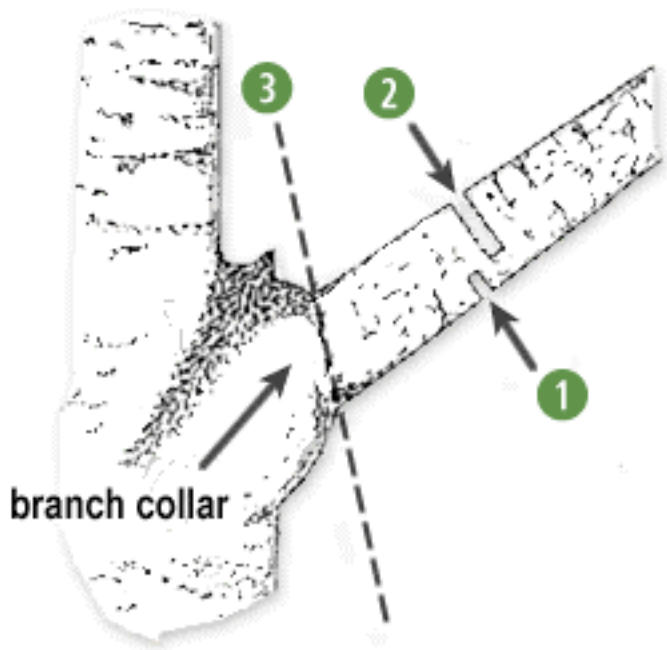
2. Water

Apply approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter inch every 7-10 days. This irrigation should occur primarily three feet away from the trunk and just beyond the dripline. The water should be applied at this rate March through September, and water at least once monthly in fall and winter.

3. Pruning

Your tree constantly transpires water from the roots to the leaves, losing water through the bark along the way. If it loses water faster than it can get water it will suffer serious effects. Excessive or improper pruning cuts lose more water than proper cuts.

Reasons to prune during drought: Wind and storm damage - Dead and dying branches



4. Chemicals

Fertilizers should not be used during extreme drought. Fertilizers increase plant growth rates and water requirements.

Growth control – A group of hormones, synthesized to mimic those that a tree naturally produces, is marketed for use as a growth regulator. TGR's (tree growth regulator's), as they are called, counteract normal tree hormones which cause trees to grow.

Please DO NOT attempt to use TGR's on your trees or shrubs without the help of a professional arborist.

5. Trees versus Turf

Maintenance practices during drought should focus first on preservation of the most valuable plants in the landscape. Woody plants (trees and shrubs) are slow growing and take many years to mature while an turfgrass lawn can be replaced in weeks.

The loss of your trees will almost certainly reduce your property value.