



Summer Tree Preparation

1. Deep Watering

Goal: Encourage deep, healthy root growth.

- Build individual berms for all trees (think of a moat around a castle) Berms should be at least as wide as the drip line of the tree
- Expose root flare
- Water deeply and slowly
- Avoid shallow daily watering
- Water early morning when possible
- Deep soak 1–3 times per week depending on:
 - Tree age
 - Soil type
 - Temperature

Young Trees

- Need more frequent watering
- Roots are shallow and sensitive to heat

Established Trees

- Water less often but more deeply
- Encourage roots to grow downwards

2. Mulching

Benefits of Mulch

- Keeps roots cool
- Retains soil moisture
- Reduces evaporation
- Builds soil biology
- Suppresses weeds
- Apply 3–6 inches deep
- Extend mulch to drip line
- Keep mulch 6-12 inches away from trunk

3. Light Summer Pruning Only

- Avoid heavy pruning and only remove:
 - Dead, Diseased, or Damaged branches

Heavy Pruning exposes bark to sunburn and causes excess stress

4. Shade & Microclimate Building

- Remove any gravel near trees
- Avoid planting near hot brick walls
- Plant companion plants as natural deterrents
- Groundcovers to keep soil cool
- Shade trees
- Mulch all bare areas of soil
- Install shade cloth (50-70 %) for sensitive young trees

5. Soil Health & Compost

Healthy Soil = Heat Resilience

- Add compost before peak summer
- Feed soil microbes: add organic matter such as compost, worm castings & worm tea
- Improves water retention

6. Fertilizing

Best Practice

- Fertilize in spring after last frost date
- Best time to feed are Valentine's Day, Memorial Day & Labor Day weekends
- Reduce feeding during extreme summer heat
- Avoid high nitrogen synthetic fertilizers
- Tender growth burns easily in high temperatures

Recommended Organic Fertilizers

- Compost
- BSFL Nutrient +
- Worm castings
- Worm tea should be applied to all trees as a foliar application

7. Pest Monitoring

Heat-stressed trees attract pests such as:

- Aphids
- Spider mites
- Scale insects
- Borers
- Leaf-footed bugs

Prevention

- Healthy watering schedule
- Proper mulch
- Good airflow
- Regular observation

Organic Controls

- Insecticidal soap
- Beneficial insects

8. Thin Heavy Fruit Loads

- Prevents branch breakage
- Improves fruit size
- Reduces stress on tree
- Harvest promptly- Overripe fruit attracts pests and rodents and can stress tree

9. Summer Tree Care Weekly Checklist

- ☐ Check soil moisture
- ☐ Inspect for pests
- ☐ Remove damaged fruit
- ☐ Monitor irrigation system
- ☐ Refresh mulch if needed
- ☐ Look for sunburn damage
- ☐ Check for stress

Seasonal Watering Frequency		
Tropical & Deciduous Fruit Tree Watering Guide		
Season/ Temperature	How Often to Water	Amount of Water
Winter (below 60°)	Every 7-14 days	10 gals per trunk diameter in inches <i>For example: A tree with a 5" diameter needs 50 gals of water</i>
Spring & Fall (60-80°)	Every 7-10 days	
Summer (90-110°)	Every 3-5 days	
Extreme Heat (above 110°)	Every 2-3 days	
Citrus Tree Watering Guide		
Season/ Temperature	How Often to Water	Amount of Water
Winter (below 60°)	Every 21- 30 days	10 gals per trunk diameter in inches <i>For example: A tree with 5" diameter needs 50 gals of water</i>
Spring & Fall (60-80°)	Every 14 days	
Summer (90-110°)	Every 7 days	
Extreme Heat (above 110°)	Every 5-7 days	