

HOPE VALLEY TREE FARM

hopevalleytreefarm.com

Steve Hipe & Family

hopevalleytreefarm@gmail.com

Office: 512-627-2201

240 Earhardt Road, Bastrop, TX.

Watering Guide

Watering is the single most important practice for the life of a newly planted tree. If you over water, the tree may die slowly of disease. If you under water, the new tree will die quickly.

Below are some conditions that will affect how much water your tree needs.

1. **Soil.** Sandy soil drains quickly and may require more frequent watering, while a clay soil may hold water like a bowl. Few trees can survive sitting in water for long periods of time without developing disease problems that will undermine the health of your tree.
2. **Tree species.** Some tree species use more water and some use surprisingly less water, but all trees need water to become established.
3. **Seasons.** Summer heat and drought conditions may cause your tree to need more water than the schedule on the next page suggests. During the winter or rainy months, the water schedule may be too often. Monitoring the tree itself and it's needs in the changing environment is recommended.
4. **Wet vs. dry – expanding your trees root zone.** Your trees health and rate of growth depends on the root system expanding out beyond the original root ball. A good root system that is anchored in the existing soil will stabilize your tree against high winds and provide nourishment to support the canopy of the tree. A deep watering that soaks into the soil around your tree will encourage root growth into those new areas of fertility and life saving water. The healthiest situation for your tree is a good deep watering and some drying out between watering.
5. **Relying on rain.** Texas experiences both heavy rains and droughts. Damp days and lite rains usually do not soak down far enough to be a good watering for your new tree. Do not let a lite rain fool you; your tree may need more water.
6. **Relying on sprinkler systems.** Most sprinkler systems water at a depth of 2 to 3 inches. A new tree needs water to penetrate about 24 inches. Installing a bubbler will give extra water to the tree itself but makes it easier to over water if not monitored properly. A sprinkler system is a great tool for regular watering but can cause people to disengage from monitoring the condition of their new tree.
7. **Weaning your tree off water.** Just like in the wild, your tree can live without supplemental water once the tree is established in the landscape. This process can take anywhere between 3 to 5 years. The simple schedule is to water half as often as you did the previous year, but that does not take into account a wet or dry year. To successfully wean your tree off water you must monitor and care for the needs of your tree while reducing the frequency of watering each new year.

Watering guide for newly planted trees:

Summer Guide

Daily for 3 days after planting

June – September (1st year) – Twice a week

June – September (2nd year) – Once a week, or as needed

June – September (3rd year) – Every 2 weeks, or as needed

Winter Guide

Daily for 2 days after planting

Once a week for a month

November – February (1st year) – Deciduous trees once every 2 weeks, Evergreen trees once a week

November – February (2nd year) – Once a month, or as needed

Spring & Fall Guide

Daily for 3 days after planting

(1st year) – Once a week as needed

(2nd year) – Once every 2 weeks as needed

This water guide is a suggestion.

You alone are responsible for the care of your tree. There is *no warranty* either expressed or implied for trees purchased at Hope Valley Tree Farm.