



# WATER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

## WATER-WISE TREE CARE FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION

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### WHY SHOULD I WATER MY TREES?

- Trees are a vital part of your landscaping. They provide numerous economic, environmental, and social benefits. They are also the most expensive element of your landscape in terms of investment and time.
- According to The National Arbor Day Foundation, properly planted and maintained trees can contribute to a home's resale value by as much as 15%.
- Tree canopies intercept rain fall, reducing storm water run off.
- Trees provide shade to walkways, parks, and buildings, reducing energy costs.
- Trees improve air quality by removing pollutants. One mature tree produces enough oxygen for a family of four for one year.
- Trees also conserve water through saving energy; power plants are one of the highest consumers of water in our region.

### HOW MUCH WATER DO MY TREES NEED?

- The species of tree, age of tree and type of soil influence how much water the tree needs. Some types of soil hold water longer than others, and watering young trees is different from water mature trees.
- For new trees: Approximately 5-10 gallons of water weekly are sufficient.
- For well-established, mature tree: In hot weather and well drained soils you should water about one gallon weekly for every inch in trunk diameter, less water is required for clay soils.
- NOTE: IF YOU ARE REMOVING GRASS, DON'T FORGET YOUR TREES STILL NEED WATER!

### HOW DO I WATER MY TREES AND STILL CONSERVE WATER?

- Slow, infrequent, deep soaking. Water supply rate should not exceed water absorption (do not allow water to run off).
- Convert existing systems to drip, low flow bubble heads, or micro spray systems for shrubs and trees, not standard spray heads. Trees should be irrigated separately from turf and landscaping as water needs vary.
- Repair existing irrigation system, fix leaks. Inspect system annually to clear emitters and ensure proper operation.
- Include rain sensors and automatic shutoff valves for irrigation controls or manually shut off water during / after rain.
- To test if your soil has enough moisture, take a handful of soil and squeeze it tightly, then release the pressure. If the soil retains its shape, there is adequate moisture in the soil and you do not need to water. If it oozes water, the moisture content is too high.

### HOW ELSE CAN I CONSERVE WATER?

- Mulch, Mulch, Mulch! Proper mulching techniques will significantly reduce water evaporation.
- Important! Keep mulch away from your tree trunk. Place a 2-4 inch depth of organic mulch least 4 6 inches from the trunk and out to the edge of the tree canopy (drip line).
- Mulching is one of the easiest ways to save water and promote healthy trunk and root systems. Proper mulching helps maximize water conservation in hot weather and further decreases storm water runoff.

### TEN DROUGHT TOLERANT TREES AND ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS WHEN MATURE

- If planting new trees under overhead power lines, make sure the trees are compatible (<25ft at maturity)

Tree	Storm Water Intercepted (gal)	Energy Savings (Kw Hrs)	Carbon Stored (lbs)
Australian Willow	324	27	9
California Sycamore	1260	124	149
Canary Island Pine	812	66	137
Crapemyrtle	320	42	12
Jacaranda	375	49	10
Melaleuca (paper bark)	324	27	9
Native Oaks	598	53	246
Peppermint Willow	324	27	9
Red Bud	320	42	12
Torrey Pine	1094	99	178

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- ❖ SelecTree – <http://www.selectree.com>
- ❖ SDG&E Tree Safety Website – <http://sdge.com/safety/treesafety>
- ❖ California Urban Forest Council – <http://www.caufc.org>
- ❖ Tree Benefit Calculator - <http://www.treebenefits.com>
- ❖ City of san Diego Water Department - <http://www.sandiego.gov/water>
- ❖ San Diego County Water Authority – <http://www.sdcwa.org>
- ❖ Landscape Watering Calculator - <http://apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc/start.do>
- ❖ National Arbor Day Foundation – <http://www.arborday.org>

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