

# Caring for Trees and Shrubs in the Drought

## Prioritize your landscape into three categories:

- 1. High priority:** must-save items including trees and shrubs
- 2. Moderate priority:** try-to-save items that include certain perennials, newer shrubs that can be replaced, and low-water use and native plants that will require little water once rooted
- 3. Low priority:** includes annuals and lawns which can often bounce back in the fall when the weather gets cooler and wetter

### Adjust your Irrigation System:

If your irrigation system has separate zones or stations for your lawn and for your trees/shrubs, adjust each zone in accordance to what is allowed by your water supplier. Some water suppliers may allow more watering days for trees and shrubs.



## How do I find out who my water provider is?

Find your water provider at <http://bewatersmart.info/find-your-water-provider/> or call 1-888-WTR-TIPS.

## How do I find out what my watering restrictions are?

Each water provider may have different watering restrictions. Check with your provider to know when to water and how many times a week it is allowed.

## Does every tree need the same amount of water?

Trees require different levels of care depending on their age. Young trees require more water than maturing and mature trees.

Young trees must receive regular water to their root ball for their first three years to establish strong root systems, while mature trees 15 years or older may vary in water needs depending on the species.



## How do I retain moisture around my trees and shrubs?

It's best to water the soil around the tree deeply by running a small trickle of water near the trunk and allowing water to slowly drip into the soil for 1-2 hours. Remember that sprinklers leave water on the surface and do not deeply water the tree's roots.

Mulching is important because it helps the soil retain water and protects the tree roots; mulch in a four-foot diameter around your tree, four inches away from the trunk and six inches thick.

## Best Way to Use Your Sprinkler Systems

Your sprinkler system shouldn't produce runoff, especially on slopes. If you see runoff, use shorter watering times and repeat the cycle to allow time for the water to move into the soil.

Watering early in the morning or late evening is best to ensure that your trees and shrubs are taking full advantage of the water. Don't water during the day, when the sun can absorb the water needed before it reaches the plants.