



# HELP YOUR TREES SURVIVE THE DROUGHT

**BE WATER-WISE.  
IT'S EASY.  
HERE'S HOW.**

Trees and water are both precious resources. Trees make our houses feel like home — they also improve property values, clean our water & air, and even make our streets safer & quieter. When we water wisely and maintain our trees carefully, we enjoy a wide range of benefits at a low cost and with little effort.

### YOUNG TREES

The roots of younger trees are less established & need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.

### MATURE TREES

Mature trees require MORE water when growing near heat traps such as driveways and foundations.

### EXPOSED TREES

Water loss is greater where trees are exposed to hot afternoon sun and strong or constant wind.

### DECIDUOUS TREES

The critical time for water is during bud-break in spring when new buds and leaves are forming.



### THE RIGHT AMOUNT

Water young trees twice per week (about 5 gallons) and mature trees once per week in several places (the equivalent of 1 to 1.5 inches of rain).

### IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Water the "drip zone," area directly beneath the foliage and shaded by the tree. Also, add mulch to lower soil temperatures & reduce water evaporation.

### CONSERVE & RECYCLE WATER

**Inside:** Place buckets in the shower to collect warm up water. Recycle water from the dehumidifier, collect air conditioning condensation, & "save a flush" to conserve. **Outside:** Convert irrigation systems to drip, low-flow or micro spray and fix leaks.

### THE RIGHT TIME

Water early in the morning or after the sun has set, as this is when trees replace the water they've lost during the day. Also less water is lost to evaporation at these times. Mulching your tree will also keep soils warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

### DON'T WASTE WATER

Water so that it soaks into the ground rather than running off into the drain.

### THE RIGHT WAY

During drought, water directly with a hose or 5-gallon bucket.

### THE RIGHT DEPTH

Deep watering helps deep root growth and healthier trees.

### THE RIGHT CHOICE

Plant native or drought resistant tree species that require less water. Choose trees over lawn as trees are a long term investment.



invest from the ground up®

GROWING TREES MAKE GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS



### VISIT US:

InvestFromTheGroundUp.org  
CaUFC.org



FOLLOW US: InvestInTrees



oceanside saves

www.SaveWaterOceanside.com

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: TREES & DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD I WATER MY MATURE NATIVE OR DROUGHT-TOLERANT TREES?

Trees that have matured in non-turf landscapes adapt the easiest, especially drought-tolerant species. Native trees, such as our California oaks, need MUCH less water than most non-native trees. California oaks may only need one or two deep waterings over the summer, but no water within 1 to 2 feet from the trunk. They absolutely need the soil to dry out for a month or two before more water, if any, needs to be reapplied.

## HOW CAN I TELL IF MY TREE IS NOT GETTING ENOUGH WATER?

Look at the tree leaves. Wilting leaves is the first indicator of lack of water to the roots. It can also mean too much water, which is unlikely in this drought.



ABOVE: Drought-stressed tree

## HOW IS WATERING TREES DIFFERENT THAN WATERING MY LAWN?

Your lawn sits on the surface of the ground and has shallow roots. It needs watering a few times a week, usually with a sprinkler. Trees need to be watered less frequently, but with deeper soaking – because their roots grow deep in the earth – the majority of tree roots are 1½ -3 feet deep. Lawn irrigation does not water trees effectively. It generally reaches only the first few inches of soil, encouraging weak surface roots to grow.

## WHERE CAN I GET MULCH?

The El Corazon Compost Facility is a vital resource for Oceanside, providing high quality organic compost and mulches to local residents at no cost. As an Oceanside resident, you are able to pick up compost and mulch for use in your home garden.

3210 Oceanside Blvd.  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
(760) 439-9920  
[www.agriserviceinc.com](http://www.agriserviceinc.com)

## HOW DOES WATERING TREES HELP THE DROUGHT?

Keeping trees alive helps keep your home cooler, meaning less energy and resources spent on cooling systems and decreased water use in other areas. Deep watering of trees also helps replenish groundwater.

## WHY NOT LET MY TREES DIE?

Dead or dying trees can be dangerous and pose great risks to your property and your loved ones. Removal of dead or dying

trees can cost thousands of dollars. In both cases, letting trees die also eliminates all the great health, home, economic, and environmental benefits that trees bring to your property.

## I HEARD EL NIÑO IS COMING BACK – WHAT IF THE DROUGHT ENDS AND I DON'T NEED TO CARE FOR MY TREE ANYMORE?

We all hope that it rains this year! Recent weather trends, however, indicate hotter temperatures in general and the likelihood of more extreme weather events – such as potential flooding due to El Niño. We need to be prepared for periods of drought and other harsh weather.

Trees are important as they can help with climate adaptation in the face of extreme weather. Caring for your trees will ensure a healthier, cleaner, more vital community – whatever the weather.



## Save Our Water and Our Trees!

[saveourwater.com/trees](http://saveourwater.com/trees)

