



# MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

450 W BUSINESS PARK RD  
SHELTON, WA 98584  
360-427-9436  
WWW.MASONCD.ORG

## **Young Tree Care and Establishment**

Proper establishment is the best way to ensure a long and healthy life for your new tree. The following are guidelines for watering and mulching your tree.

### **Watering**

New trees need water to become established. They should be watered for at least the first three years after planting. Use a bucket or a garden hose on low to give your tree 15 gallons, once a week. Small rain showers are no substitute for a deep soak, which encourages the tree to develop a deeper root system. Water should be applied from May through September.

### **Mulching**

Apply a flat and wide mulch saucer around your tree each year. Mulch helps retain soil moisture and adds nutrients to the soil. Applying a layer that is 2 - 3 inches thick and 3 - 4 inches from the trunk is best. Mulch against the tree's trunk can lead to decay. The mulch ring should extend to the edge of the tree's canopy. A good mulch ring will also protect the trunk from string trimmer and lawn mowers.

### **Fertilizer and Soil Amendments**

No need! This creates a false environment for young trees. They need to acclimate to their new place in the ground without any soil amendments.

### **Staking**

No need! Trees don't need stakes unless they are leaning. In fact, allowing the tree to move, helps the trunk build wood in response to the wind. Remove the bamboo stake that comes with the tree at time of planting.

### **Mowing**

Be mindful when performing yard work, such as mowing and weed eating. Cutting into the trunk can kill the tree. We recommend hand weeding around the tree.

Thank you to Portland Parks and Recreation for allowing us to share this information.