

# Street tree planting after care and watering directions

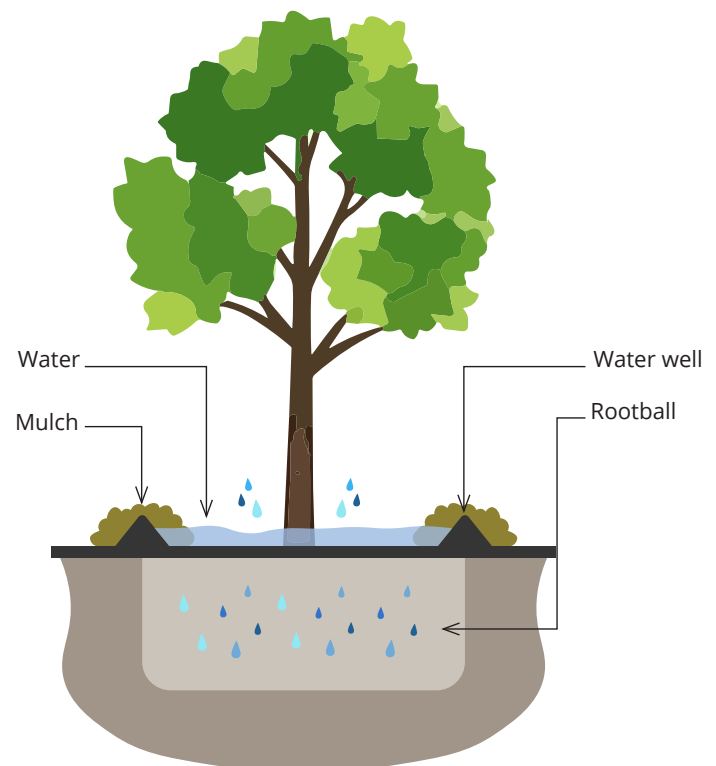
Congratulations on your new street tree – together we can create a cooler, greener, healthier and more vibrant community for generations to come.

## Planting your tree

- Newly planted trees can only access moisture that is within their own rootball.
- At the time of planting, a green surround should have been installed, which is called a 'water well'.
- This water well also aids in protecting the tree from mechanical damage during lawn maintenance.
- Eventually the tree will send out new roots into the surrounding soils and gradually become self sufficient. But, until then, it needs your help.
- The tree needs to be watered regularly during the first six to 12 weeks (at a minimum and depending on the season). Please ensure someone is assigned to regularly water the tree.
- This is a great opportunity to involve the whole family in making sure the tree is watered regularly.
- Moisture will not flow from wet surrounding soils back into the rootball, so each time the tree is watered gently fill the water well up. The waterwell is designed to direct the water to the rootball.
- Do not rely on general garden sprinklers until the tree is clearly established.
- Do not stop watering in the event of rain. It might wet the ground but, unless heavy and/or prolonged, rain normally will not deliver adequate moisture to the rootball.
- Water loss can be reduced, and soil conditions improved by adding an organic mulch to the area on top of and adjacent to the rootball. (Make sure mulch is not heaped up against the stem of the tree. **DO NOT USE GRASS CLIPPINGS**, grass clippings heat up and will cook the stem and roots, they also cause collar rot at the root crown (base of the trunk))
- Monitor the trees for signs of wilt as part of the initial maintenance programme. Add more or less water as needed. An average Council street tree will need about two watering cans per day in the first six weeks.

## Seasonal Considerations

- Trees establish more readily in autumn than in spring or summer.
- With autumn planting, the period when concentrated attention must be given to trees will be shorter than in spring or summer, maybe as little as six weeks, after which watering may be reduced.
- Trees planted in spring, particularly late spring, are trying to establish as they enter the harshest time of the year.
- In the case of spring or summer plantings, longer nursing and greater vigilance are essential.
- These recommendations assume the trees are planted correctly into sites with good drainage.



**The single most important need for a newly planted tree is to receive adequate moisture.**