

## PREVENTION

### OVER FERTILIZATION

Fertilizing your tree is not necessary for a healthy tree. As the mulch decomposes, it will provide nutrients. Over-fertilizing your tree will create a higher concentration of minerals in the soil than in the tree's root system. This can prevent the tree's roots from absorbing water and nutrients necessary for the plant's growth and survival.

### HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Keep household chemicals, like cleaning liquid, deicing salt, or pool chemicals as far from your tree as possible. Added salts and chemicals in the soil can create a drought-like environment for the tree, damaging twigs, leaves, and buds.

### DEER

If deer are damaging your trees by feeding or rubbing, protective measures can be purchased. Most hardware stores will carry deer prevention fences or materials.

### WEEDS & IVY

If you see ivy or vines growing up your tree, carefully remove them as they can damage your tree over time. The best way to remove ivy is to cut it back at the base, being careful to not damage the trunk of the tree. To prevent it from growing back, uproot the ivy.

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**the  
Neighborhood  
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# Caring for your new TREE



**Thank you for participating  
in CKAR's GROWING GREEN  
WITH TREES program.**

**Use this guide to keep your  
new trees healthy for many  
years to come!**

## WATER

For the first 2 -3 years, we suggest watering your tree with about **8 gallons of water** once per week during the hottest, driest months of the year.

### HOW TO WATER

Leave your **hose** on near the base of your tree at a slow but steady stream for about **5-10 minutes**. This will ensure the water slowly permeates the root area without forcefully flooding it.

A tree **watering bag or donut** will make the watering process much easier.

Providing young trees with sufficient water is key to successfully transplanting and establishing the tree.

## MULCH

Apply a ring of shredded hardwood mulch, approximately 3 inches thick and 3 feet wide, around the base of the tree.

It should look like a **donut!**

Avoid mulching against the bark of the trunk, and leaving a 'mulch volcano.' This will cause health and structural issues for the tree over time.

See the image to the right for improper and proper mulching.



Volcano: BAD

Donut: GOOD

## PRUNE

### WHEN TO PRUNE

Fall & Winter when the tree is dormant.

### TOOLS FOR PRUNING

Use sharp, clean pruning equipment like hand pruners or pruning shears to prevent tearing, or damage to the tree.



### HOW TO CUT

Always cut close to – but not into – the branch bark ridge. This area of the branch holds the healing cells that will prevent decay from spreading to the trunk.

## WHAT TO PRUNE

### BRANCHES

Branches that are good candidates for removal include: **dead** branches, **crossing** branches, branches **growing inward** toward the trunk, and branches that are **too low** on the trunk.

### ROOT SUCKERS

Trees will often sprout new branches near the **base of the tree**, called suckers or shoots. Remove these shoots before they get too large or they could grow into a competing or unsightly trunk.

### NEVER "TOP" A TREE

Never **EVER** top your tree. Topping is when blunt cuts are made at the end of every major branch. This causes disease, decay, and structural failure. Remove no more than 20% of the total number of limbs when pruning.

**NO! NO! NO!**

