



5 Year Replacement Tree Care and Maintenance Plan
Cambridge Department of Public Works
Urban Forestry Division

Proper care for newly planted Replacement Trees helps to ensure they will thrive and expand the City's urban forest. It is the Property Owner's responsibility to monitor and care for Replacement Trees on their property.

Watering

Deep watering of your new tree is recommended to reduce transplant shock and encourage deep root growth. Use a gator bag or other similar irrigation bag, install a drip irrigation system, or use a hose to thoroughly soak the roots. It is recommended that you water your new tree once a week with at least 20 gallons in the spring, summer, and fall. Watering should begin in the spring after the final thaw and up until the first frost in the fall. During periods of heavy rain, you may not need to water your tree. Increase watering frequency to every other day during periods of drought.

Staking

Your new tree may need to be staked at planting if the planting location is windy, where mower or weed whacker damage is likely, or if the tree is planted in a high-traffic area. Use 2-3 stakes and tie the tree loosely with nylon or canvas ties. Remove stakes after 2 years.

Mulching

New trees should be planted with a 3" layer of mulch to provide protection and reduce water and nutrient competition with turf grass and other plants. Keep all mulch away from the trunk and root flare of the new tree. The mulch should extend to the outermost edge of the tree's canopy (drip line). It is recommended to use organic mulch that will decompose and provide your new tree with nutrients and improved soil structure. Organic mulches include wood chips, leaves, and compost mix. Organic mulches will need to be re-applied as they decompose.

Fertilizing

New trees typically do not require fertilization. Fertilizer should only be applied if a soil test indicates a deficiency.

Pruning

Prune dead and broken branches at planting. After the new tree is established, your new tree may require structural pruning. Please consult with a Certified Arborist before pruning your tree.

Monitoring the Health of Your New Tree

Please monitor your new tree for signs of stress and disease. If your tree is showing signs of stress or disease, please contact a Certified Arborist and request an assessment.