



# Urban and Community Forestry



## TREE MAINTENANCE TIMETABLE

Years After Planting	Necessary	Desirable	Optional
0 - 3	Watering Mulching/Weeding	Pest Control	Fertilizing Stakes (Guards)
3 - 5	Mulching/Weeding Pruning	Watering Pest Control	Stakes (Guards) Fertilizing
5 - 10	Pruning	Mulching Pest Control	Fertilizing
10 and Beyond		Pruning	Mulching Fertilizing Pest Control

## CHECKLIST FOR MAINTENANCE OF NEW TREES

### ► **Watering:**

The ground around the rootball of new trees should be kept moist for two years, generally the equivalent of one inch of rain per week, or at least 5 gallons of water per tree. Check soil moisture 2 inches below surface.

### ► **Mulching/Weeding:**

Maintain a wood or bark chip mulch ring approximately 4 ft. diameter and 3 inches deep, minimum, around each tree. Replenish as needed, perhaps once per year. Pull weeds and grass from mulched area. For best results, continue to enlarge the mulched area in the future.

### ► **Staking:**

Install 2 steel fenceposts per tree with ties low on the trunk. Do not allow ties to constrict bark. Remove ties after one growing season or less but keep posts as needed for protection from mowers.

### ► **Pruning:**

Remove all dead or broken branches at their source. Correct structural or form problems after trees become established – approximately 3 years. Best time is mid-winter. Never remove the branch collar, or basal swelling of a branch.

### ► **Pest Control:**

Watch for a build-up of leaf eating insects, which may cause brown, curled, or chewed leaves. Apply insecticides as needed. Control fungi and other diseases if serious infection occurs before July. Diagnosis of problem pests is important.

### ► **Fertilization:**

Growth rate and density of foliage may be improved by broadcasting 2 to 3 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet, up to and just beyond the branch spread (Example: 1/2 to 1 lb. 33-0-0 over a 10 x 10 ft. square). Apply in late September to early November. May be applied in multiple applications. Begin second year after planting.