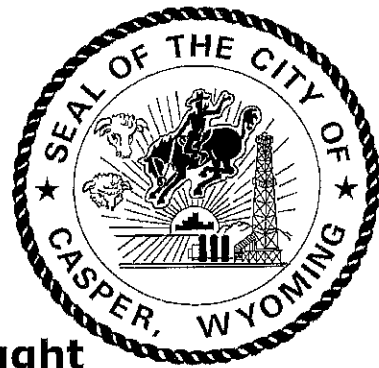


City of Casper Citizen Fact Sheet



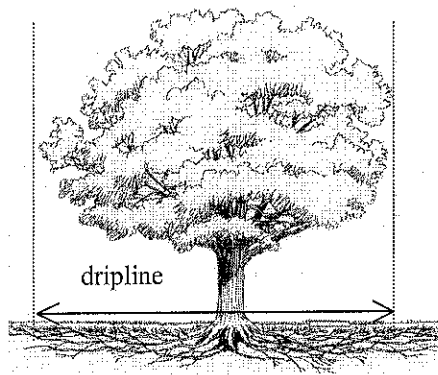
Spring Tree & Shrub Care During A Drought

1. Establish when and how much to water

Depending on temperature, weather, and soil conditions, water 2 - 3 times per month. The best time to water is between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. Otherwise, water between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. To assure survival of the tree, apply 10 gallons of water for each inch of the tree's diameter measured at breast height. For example, a garden hose at medium pressure will produce about 10 gallons in 5 minutes. Therefore, a 3-inch diameter tree would need to be watered for 15 minutes (3" x 5 minutes). Infrequent, heavy waterings are better than frequent, light waterings.

2. Consider the roots

Tree root systems can spread 2 to 3 times wider than the height of the tree. Most of the tree's absorbing roots are in the top 12 inches of the soil. Water should be applied at the dripline (the critical root zone illustrated in the tree diagram).



3. Water deeply and slowly

Apply water so that it moistens the soil in the critical root zone to a depth of 12 inches. Use a soaker hose, drip irrigation, a garden hose, or a soft spray wand. If a garden hose is used, move it to several locations at the dripline. Deep watering with a deep root fork or needle is not as good for trees as surface applications, but if used, insert no deeper than 8 inches. Avoid watering the tree foliage, as droplets on tree leaves can lead to pest problems and destruction of leaf tissue through sun damage.

4. Remove the competition

Turf and other plants, including weeds, around the base of trees compete with tree roots for moisture. Removing plant competition decreases water stress.

5. Use mulch to retain soil moisture

Apply organic mulch within the dripline to a depth of 2 - 4 inches. Leave a 6-inch space between the mulch and the trunk of the tree. Mulch materials may include wood chips, bark, leaves, and evergreen needles. Apply water over the top of the mulch.

SAVE OUR SHADE! Moisture is critical to trees and shrubs. Drought-stressed trees are more vulnerable to disease and insect infestation, and branch dieback. Watch for anything out of the ordinary, and call a licensed tree care expert for help.