

Trees and the Drought

Trees provide a long list of benefits, including: offering shade that cools buildings and streets, absorbing airborne pollutants and providing oxygen, capturing rainfall and reducing stormwater runoff, and preventing erosion.

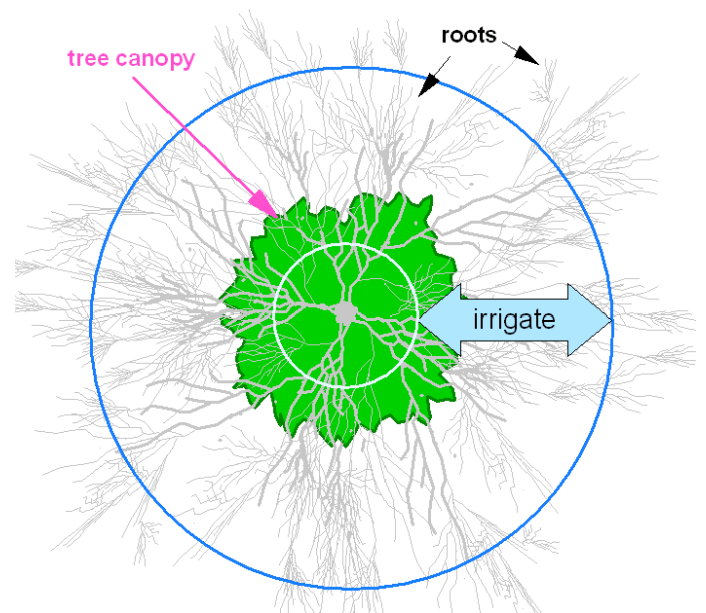
Unfortunately, droughts have been deadly for [millions of trees](#) in California. While trees can go for longer periods of time without water than lawns, they can become stressed and more prone to disease. Dead trees not only lower property values, they also present a fire hazard.

Tree Care

In a mature tree its roots can extend far beyond the edge of canopy or “drip line”. This is the area to irrigate or apply water for a tree.

Typical landscape irrigation systems, such as pop-up sprinklers, may not be the most efficient way to water trees, especially in areas with soils that have low permeability or percolation rates.

Use the resources below to find out how you can keep your trees healthy.



Tree watering information and tips

[California Urban Forests Council](#) (PDF)

[University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)

Videos

[Watering Young and Mature Trees](#) , US Department of Agriculture and Forest Service

Remember these [state water waste prohibitions](#)

- Garden hoses must have automatic shut-off nozzles (a squeezable handle that allows water flow)
- Do not allow water to runoff from the landscape on to hard surfaces (driveways, sidewalks, streets, etc.)
- Do not water landscapes within 48 hours of rain