



CARING FOR YOUR TREE

The urban environment can be a tough place for a young tree! Increase your tree's chances of survival by following these simple guidelines:

1 WATERING YOUR TREE

It's important that your tree is regularly watered after planting. Unless it rains heavily, fill the watering bag provided by Louisville Grows through the slit at the top of the bag. Fill the bag at least once a week May-September in the first year, twice a month in the second year, and once a month in the third year.



2 MULCHING

Your tree will be mulched by volunteers shortly after the planting to help conserve moisture and prevent weeds. Use the 3-3-3 rule: mulch in a three foot diameter around the trunk, three inches away from the trunk, and three inches deep. Mulch breaks down over time and will need to be replenished.



A 2-4 inch mulch layer prevents grass and weeds from competing with your tree. Try to keep a three foot diameter.



Your mulch should NOT look like this! Volcano mulching can damage your tree. Never pile mulch around the trunk.

3 WEEDING

Remember to use mulch and hand pull weeds around the base of the tree. Weeds and grass take away essential nutrients from the soil that your young tree needs. It's important to keep the base of your young tree free from weeds.



4 AVOID BARK DAMAGE

Lawn mowers, weed eaters, and car doors can cut through the thin bark of young trees, damaging their ability to transport nutrients. If the inner and outer bark of the tree trunk is cut, the tree will die. Avoid using these machines near the base of your tree.



5 PRUNING AND STAKING

In most cases, staking a young tree is NOT necessary. After planting, it's best to allow the tree three years to establish itself before staking or making any pruning cuts. If you think your tree needs extra support or pruning, contact Louisville Grows and we will send a trained Citizen Forester to assist you!

6 SUCKERS & SPROUTS

Suckers are vine-like tendrils that wrap around the trunk. Sprouts are new growth from the base of the tree. Both suckers and sprouts divert energy away from the tree's development, and should be pruned at their base.

Love Louisville Trees is the neighborhood-based urban reforestation program of Louisville Grows
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