

# Save Our Water and Our Trees

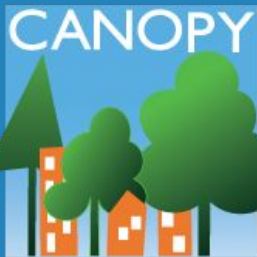


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# Save Our Water and Our Trees



*Share Canopy's best tips for water-wise tree care and how we engage and educate communities to protect our urban forests and safeguard our water resources.*



# Save Our Water, Save Our Trees



*Trees are the most valuable element of our green infrastructure because of the benefits they provide and the investment they represent.*

**Save Our Water  
and Our Trees!**

[saveourwater.com/trees](https://saveourwater.com/trees)

**Know your  
trees, know  
their needs**





# Know your trees, know their needs

- **Different trees have different water and care requirements. To determine how much and how often your tree needs water, consider:**
- **Species.** Look up your tree species' watering needs on [Canopy's tree library](#). For help identifying your tree, [contact Canopy](#) or use a resource like the [Urban Tree Key](#).
- **Age.** Young trees require more frequent watering (but less volume of water) than mature trees. See [caring for young trees](#).
- **Health.** A stressed tree may require more water than a vital tree. If your tree is in poor condition, consider hiring a [certified arborist](#).
- **Soil type.** Water needs will also be affected by your soil type. For example, clay soil does not accept water easily, but holds on to water longer.
- **Other site conditions.** Factors like sun exposure, surrounding plants, and nearby water sources also influence watering needs.



# Irrigation - Dos and Don'ts





# Irrigation - Do's

- Water a tree once a week for the first year
- Practice deep water basin watering to establish deep roots (10-15 gallons a week)
- Water your tree during a drought
- Use Canopy's: Tree Watering Guidelines



# Irrigation - Don'ts

- Stop watering your tree when you stop watering your lawn
- Stop watering your tree when we are in a drought
- Just rely on sprinklers for establishing a tree
- Water native oaks in the summer

(Native species thrive under two conditions: cold and wet, and hot and dry)





# Young Tree Care



# Regularly check your tree for...



- **Flattened watering basin**
- **Consider the dripline**



# Regularly check your tree for...



- **Compacted soil**
- **Conflicting weeds**



# Mulch to conserve moisture



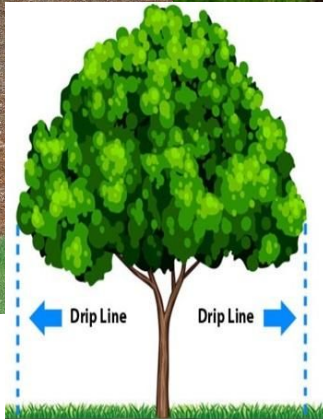
# Mulch to conserve moisture



- Properly applied, mulch:
  - Insulates the roots from extreme temperatures
  - Slows soil moisture evaporation
  - Reduces water use
  - Suppresses weeds
  - Reduces soil compaction
  - Feeds nutrients into the soil as the mulch breaks down
  - Provides a buffer, protecting the tree from mowers and soil compaction

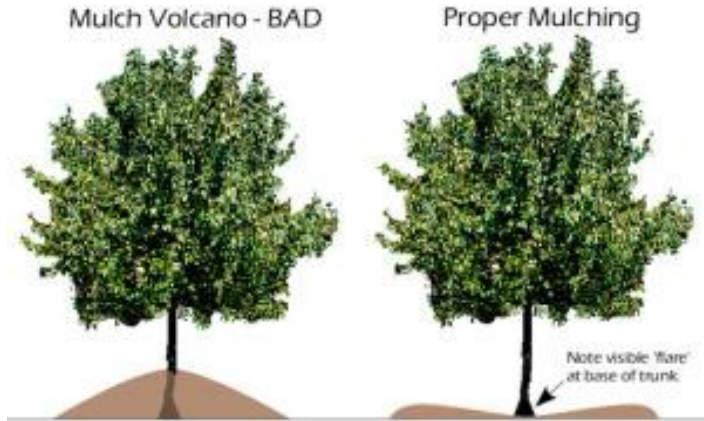


# Mulch to conserve moisture





# Mulching tips



- Use organic matter such as wood chips, with or without leaf matter. Trees actually prefer wood chip mulch and the “duff” created by their own leaves
- Apply mulch layer 3-5 inches deep (or 1 inch deep if using spray irrigation), extending at least as far as the drip line
- No mulch volcanoes!
- If weeds persist, place a layer of newspaper or cardboard, or a biodegradable weed cloth fabric under the mulch
- Replenish mulch layer every spring

# Remove Your Lawn But, Help Trees Transition



# Help your tree transition...



- Deciding to remove your lawn or letting it go 'golden'? Consider the following options:
  - Substitute with a drought-tolerant native grass to conserve water yet still maintain the landscape
    - Ex. Tall red fescue mix
  - Lawn Conversion Rebates
  - Make a watering plan for your tree by using the *Canopy's Tree Watering Guidelines*
  - **Mulch the area around your trees**
  - **Consider installing drip irrigation**



# Plant Drought-Tolerant Trees





# Establishing Resilient/Drought-tolerant Trees

- **Research tree before planting:**
  - **Ex: SelecTree or Canopy Tree Library**
  - **Plan for maximum height and width**
- **Plant correctly**
  - **Videos, volunteer opportunities**
- **Right tree right place**
  - **Land use**
  - **Utility conflicts**



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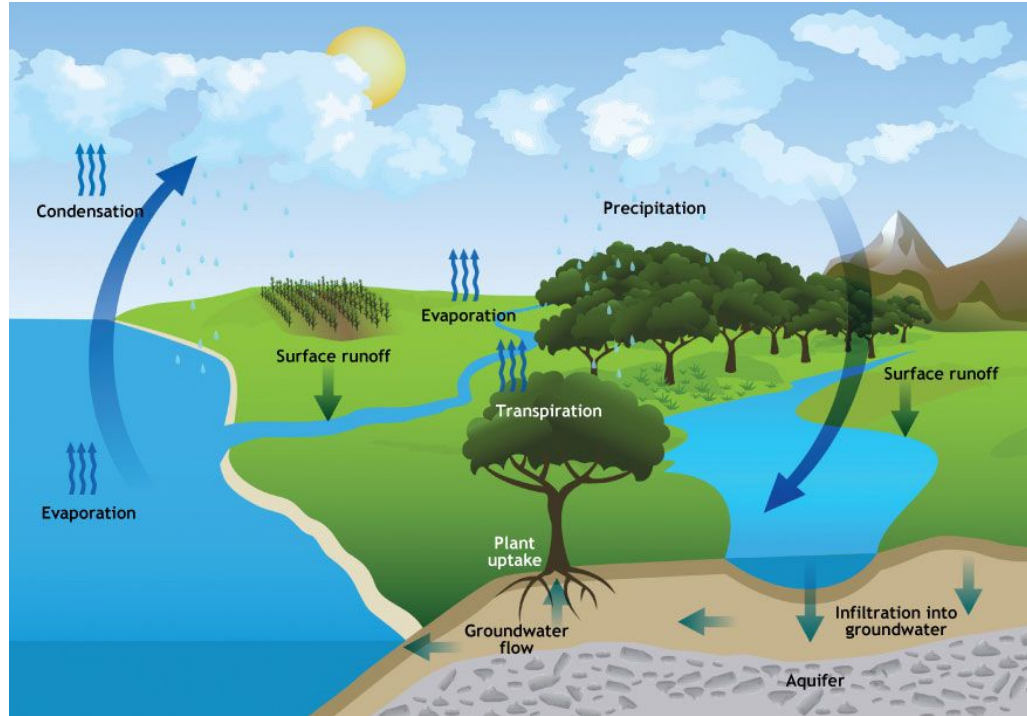
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[saveourwater.com/trees](https://saveourwater.com/trees)

- Trees combat climate change
- Trees appreciate in value over time
- Don't let trees suffer during a drought
- Trees are “worth” the water, invest in trees
- Trees are a nature-based solution to Climate Change

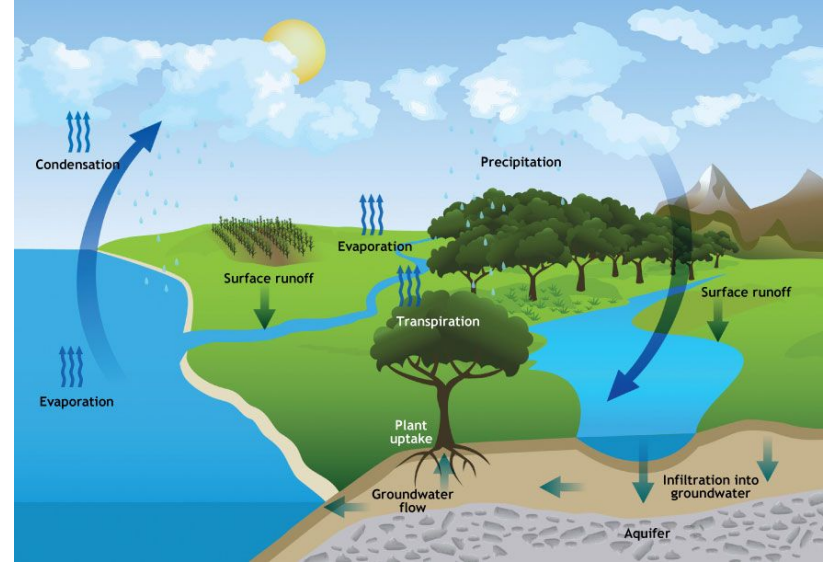


# How Trees Save Water



# How Trees Save Water

- Manage rainwater in storm events
- Improve water quality
- Slows water down, helps recharge aquifers
- Drought-tolerance aids water conservation
- Maximize the water conservation of trees and landscaping



# Community Engagement and Education



- Online resources
- In-person training, engaging residents in watering their tree
- Target Audiences and messaging:
  - Tree Stewards
  - SOWAOT Banner and Brochure
  - Watering reminders through TreEnews



# Community Resources: Canopy.org



Tree Library



Benefits of Trees



Hire an Arborist

# Community Resources

- **Canopy's Tree Watering Guidelines:**

<https://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/watering-guidelines/>

- **Canopy's Resources for Lawn Conversion:**

- Learn more about protecting trees during turf conversion.
- "Does removing your lawn really save water?" from Huffington Post.
- Residential rebates (including for landscape) from Santa Clara Valley Water District.

- **"Save Our Water, Save Our Trees":**

<https://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/save-water-and-trees/>



How to Save Water & Save Trees



Tree Watering Guidelines



Ask a Tree Question



Tree Library

# Community Resources

- **Save Our Water Save Our Trees Brochure:**
  - <https://canopy.org/wp-content/uploads/Canopy-Save-Our-Water-and-Trees-Brochure.pdf>
- **Canopy's TreEnews: for watering reminders**
  - <https://canopy.org/get-involved/join-our-mailing-list/>
- **SelecTree: (online tree database)**
  - <https://selecttree.calpoly.edu/search/>



How to Save Water & Save Trees



Tree Watering Guidelines



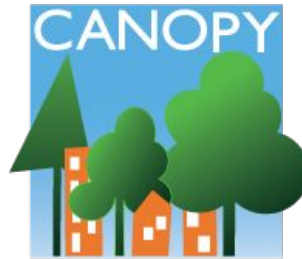
Ask a Tree Question



Tree Library



# Thank you!



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