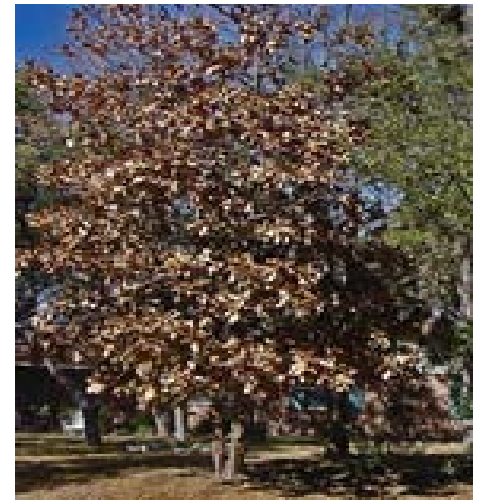


Is my tree dead?

(and if not, what should I do?)

Given the heat and dryness of the summer, many trees are under stress. Here are some tips to help your trees recover and to prevent drought damage.



- **Don't remove the tree yet!** Wait until spring to see it leafs out.
- **WATER!** The best method is to use buckets with holes, a soaker hose or let your hose run under the tree, rather than sprinkling. Always follow local watering restrictions/rules.
- **Water in early morning or evening.** To minimize losses due to evaporation in full sun. If the tree looks drought-stressed, water it as soon as possible.
- **Water deeply, less often.** 90 percent of a trees roots are located in the top 12 inches of soil no matter how big the tree is. Water out to the drip line (the furthest reach of the leaves).
- **How much water?** A general rule of thumb is 10 gallons for each inch of trunk diameter. So, a 4 inch tree requires about 40 gallons. A hose under medium pressure delivers about 10 gallons in 5 minutes.
- **How often?** At least once per month, 3 times if possible.
- **What do I save first?** The priority is small trees with less well established root systems. Medium and large trees will be able to withstand some drought since they have more established roots.
- **Other tips:** Do not fertilize! Stressed trees can't handle it. **Mulch:** 2-3 inches, not touching the tree's trunk. **Prune:** Obviously dead/diseased branches to reduce pest and disease attack.
- **Don't worry about the lawn!** Lawns can be replaced in a matter of months, but a 20 year old tree will take 20 years to replace.