

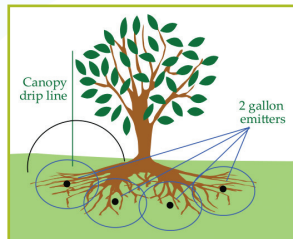
TREE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

PLANT

- When planting new trees**, be sure the top of the root ball is level with the soil, to prevent root breakage.
- Right tree, right place**; don't plant large trees under power lines!
- Include a two-foot buffer** between the trunk and turf; be sure turf is not planted up against trunk because its watering needs are very different.
- Fill the buffer** two inches deep with organic mulch, such as wood chips.
- Tree spacing is important**. Remember to follow the instructions for each variety of tree. The distance for planting depends on the type of tree and final height of a grown tree.

IRRIGATE

- Install an irrigation system** for most efficient watering.
- Make sure they get enough water** during dry spells (especially in the winter, if the ground isn't frozen).
- Install 2 gallon emitters** along the dripline for the most consistent watering possible.
- Add emitters** as the tree grows and dripline expands.
- Check** on the emitters a few times a season.
- Use a deep root feeder** three times a year; once each in the fall, spring and summer.



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PRUNE

- Prune your trees** in the spring, never top!
- Remove watersprouts**, the small limbs that grow vertically from larger limbs.
- Remove dead branches** to reduce hazards.
- Lighten the loads** on your strongest branches to get better fruit.
- No topping**; cutting from the top of the tree is hazardous and can kill the tree. Avoid this by planting trees according to their mature height.

CONSULT

You should contact a certified arborist if your tree has...

- Deep, open cracks** in the trunk, branches or at joining branches.
- Rapid growth** of branches that were recently topped.
- Hollows or cankers** (dead spots) in the trunk or major branches.
- Termites** or signs of termite activity.
- Unseasonable leaf drop** or flower production.
- Swollen areas** at the base of the trunk.

To schedule a free tree consultation with a certified arborist, email us at askanarborist@tmwa.com