

# WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Newly transplanted trees have less root volume to extract water. The roots were severed to facilitate transplanting. Frequent watering is necessary for optimal tree establishment. The root balls of newly planted trees will dry out in two to three days. Therefore, the watering recommendations include one to one and a half gallons per stem caliper inch. The more closely you follow these guidelines, the quicker the trees become established in the soil outside the hole you dig.

Do not apply water directly to the trunk. Water with an open-end hose at a very low rate – slow enough to keep the water from running off (or as slow as your hose will run). **One hour of watering for each caliper inch is a good rule of thumb.** For example, a three inch tree requires three hours of watering with a slow running hose.

Below are the guidelines for 'well-drained' sites.

Less than two inch plant stock or 5-7' spruce trees: Water daily for one week, every other day for one to two months and weekly for one year.

Two to four inch plant stock or 8-12' spruce trees: Water daily for two weeks, every other day for two months and weekly for two years.

Four inch or more plant stock or 12'+ spruce trees: Water daily for two weeks, every other day for three months, and weekly for three years.

For wet or clay soil, the key is to use a very slow running hose, or a 'dripping' hose. YOU DO NOT WANT TO FILL THE HOLE WITH WATER. For large trees, reduce watering time by half (DO NOT REDUCE FREQUENCY OF WATERING).

If you go on vacation, plan to have someone care for your trees while you are away. A week without water during the summer months CAN KILL YOUR TREES.

## MULCHING

Mulching around the tree's base reduces soil moisture loss, improves water and air penetration, and keeps soil temperature more stable. These conditions are helpful for root growth and therefore improve tree vigor.

Wood chips, shredded bark or pine needles can all be used for mulch. Cover the area with mulch about 4-6 inches deep. Avoid mounding mulch next to the tree trunk. DO NOT place landscape rock, sod or plant grass on top of the rootball.