



Public Works Department

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE

**Monday October 12, 2015 7:00 p.m.**

**El Cerrito City Hall**  
Hillside Conference Room  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**1. Roll Call :**

**Present:** Chair Cathy Bleier, Vice Chair Ralph Boniello, Michael Charlton, Steve Price, Yan Linhart. Staff Liaison Stephen Prée was also present.

**Absent:** Member Karen Christian and Mike Srago. Council Liaison Jan Bridges did not attend.

**2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items:**

Karen Grassle provided comment and distributed a flyer regarding the efforts of the City of Claremont, CA to educate residents about the effect, symptoms and treatment of drought stressed trees. Ms. Grassle asked what drought related outreach action the City of El Cerrito had taken or would take.

Chair Cathy Bleier commented that the committee will consider making such an outreach effort in El Cerrito. A discussion followed that included the question of timeliness of this message immediately prior to a rainy season that is projected to gain strength with El Niño.

**3. Report from the City Council Liaison:**

Councilmember Bridges was not present, therefore no report was given.

**4. Action Items -**

- Motion to adopt the minutes from September 14, 2015 with revision: Price; 2<sup>nd</sup> Boniello; passed unanimously.
- Motion to recommend to City Council the appointment of Robert Hrubes to the Tree Committee: Boniello; Linhart 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed unanimously

**5. Report from the City Arborist-** Prée reported a.) City staff had provided supplemental watering of trees in street medians and parks during the month of September b.) recent tree limb failures of Elm and Sweetgum species c.) update on tree work contracts d.) the Phytophthora “Plant Killer” seminar hosted by the EQC e.) he attended a field study of S.O.D. with Dr. Bryce McPherson f.) his recent investigation of the death of two Coast Live Oak trees bordering the Hillside Natural Area, showed photos of the trees. g.) and Boniello discussed Park and Recreation Commissioner Ben Chuaqui ‘s inquiry regarding the status of the City street tree planting program. h.) showed photos of the Girl Scout Troop tree planting in Poinsett Park on September 27.

- 6. Revised City Tree List-** Chair Blair asked if the tree species list was complete. There was a discussion on the merits of including the City Municipal Code sections regarding the planting of prohibited species 10.90.190 and the requirement for planting authorization from the City 13.28.010.

*ACTION-* After a discussion of the adoption process Vice Chair Boniello made a *motion* to approve the Master Tree List and Introduction allowing for the City to continue vetting, make necessary corrections and add information as needed. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mike Charlton; unanimous. The committee requested that staff communicate the adoption of the new City Tree List to other boards, commissions and committees.

- 7. Calendar of Events and Work Plan Update-** There was a brief discussion regarding a Tree Care Workshop location and agenda. Steve Price said that he had scouted potential workshop sites including the future Dorothy Rosenberg Park and Canyon Trail Park. The Committee deferred further discussion to next month's meeting in the interest of time.

**8. Announcements (none) and future agenda items:**

- Tree Care Workshop
- Tree Planting at Poinsett Park

- 9. Adjournment- 9:10 p.m.**

# Tree Watering Guide

## Helping Your Tree Survive the Drought

### Why is it important to water tree during a drought?

Claremont is a community known for its beautiful tree-lined streets. Trees improve home values, provide shade and oxygen, and contribute to the character of the Claremont. The City has over 24,000 City-owned trees, many over 100 years old. During this continued drought, the City is asking residents for their help in saving our trees.

### What is more important; grass or trees?

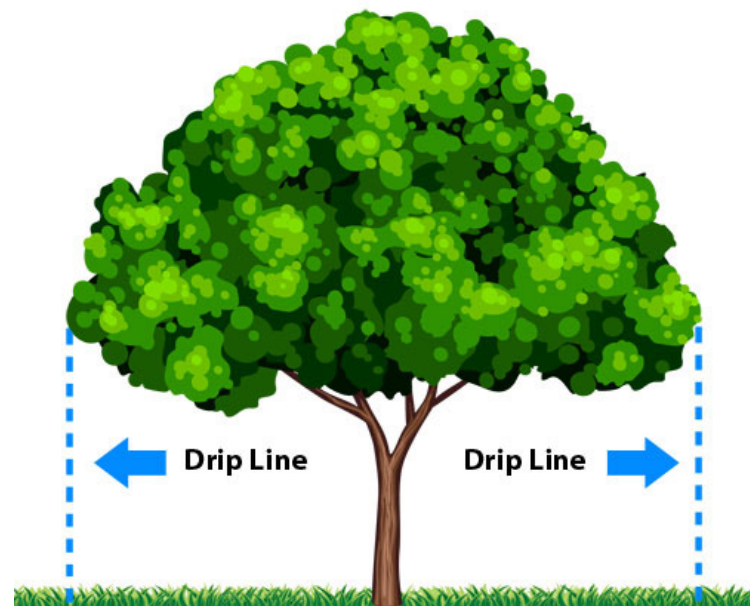
During the drought, trees must be given top watering priority over your lawn. However, caring for trees requires different watering methods than your lawn. During water restrictions, irrigation systems designed to water turf do not sufficiently water your trees. During the drought, trees should be given a higher priority than lawns. Lawns can be replaced in a matter of months whereas a 20 year old tree will take 20 years to replace.

### Where and how do I water my tree?

- Deep watering to a depth of 12” inches below the soil surface is recommended.
- Saturate the soil around the tree within the “dripline” (the outer edges of the tree’s branches) to disperse water down toward the roots.
- For evergreens, water 3’-5’ beyond the dripline on all sides of the tree.
- The objective is to water slowly, dispersing the flow of water to get the water deep down to the trees roots. Watering for short periods of time only encourages shallow rooting which can lead to more drought damage.
- Don’t dig holes in the ground in an effort to water deeply. This dries out roots even more. A soil needle/deep root feeder attached to a hose is acceptable to insert into the ground if your soil is not too hard and compact.
- Overhead spraying of tree leaves is inefficient and should be avoided during drought conditions. Watering at ground level to avoid throwing water in the air is more efficient.

### What does a tree under “drought stress” look like?

- Symptoms of drought injury to trees can be sudden or may take up to two years to be revealed. Drought injury symptoms on tree leaves include wilting, curling at the edges, and yellowing.
- Deciduous leaves may develop scorch, brown outside edges or browning between veins.
- Evergreen needles may turn yellow, red or purple. They may also turn brown at the tips of the needles and browning may progress through the needle towards the twig.
- In continued drought, leaves may be smaller than normal, drop prematurely or remain attached to the tree even though brown.



*Water evenly at the drip line away from the trunk of the tree. Water slowly in a circular pattern, allowing the water to penetrate the soil at least a foot down.*

# How Much Water Does My Tree Need?

How much water your tree should receive depends upon the tree size. A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering. Measure trunk diameter at knee height. General formula: Tree Diameter x 5 minutes = Total Watering Time.

**Example:** When you hand water using a hose at medium pressure, it will take approximately 5 minutes to produce 10 gallons of water. If you have a 4" diameter tree, it should receive 40 gallons of water - multiply by 5 minutes to equal total watering time of 20 minutes.

All size trees should be watered April through September according to the guidelines below

## Small Trees (1-7" diameter)

Once a week

**Small trees are best watered using the following methods:**

- Automated drip irrigation system/soaker hose.
- End of the hose using a soft spray attachment at medium pressure
- 5-gallon bucket (with ¼" holes drilled in bottom) or watering bags – filled and set under the dripline.

## Medium Trees (8-15" diameter)

Three times per month

Medium sized trees are best watered using the following methods:

- Soaker hose coiled several times under the dripline of the tree.
- End of the hose with a soft spray attachment to disperse the flow – use a medium pressure.

## Large Trees (16"+ diameter)

Three times per month

Large trees are best watered using the following method:

- Soaker hose coiled several times under the dripline of the tree.
- End of the hose with a shower like hose attachment to disperse the flow – use a medium pressure.

## Listed below are tree maintenance procedures that can significantly increase a tree's chance of making it through drought periods.

- Mulch around your trees with 4 inches of organic mulch to reduce moisture loss.
- Use wood chips, shredded bark, leaves or evergreen needles as mulch – avoid the use of stone or rock near trees as this increases air temperatures and moisture loss from leaves and stems.
- Pull back mulch 6" from the trunk of the tree.
- Do not fertilize a tree that is under drought stress. Salts in fertilizer may burn roots when there is not sufficient water. Fertilizers may also stimulate top growth resulting in too much leaf area on the plant for the root system to maintain during periods of limited soil moisture.
- Keep your trees healthy and pest free. Postpone any construction activities planned near your tree to reduce impact to the trees' roots. If your tree has any insect or disease problem that may be adding additional stress – treat them accordingly to reduce the overall stress to your trees.
- Properly prune trees and shrubs during time of drought to improve structure, limb stability and to remove dead and weakened branches. Leaving broken, dead, insect-infested or diseased branches can further weaken a tree during drought and set the tree up for deadly secondary insect and disease problems.
- Many tree species are harmed by herbicides used in the lawn. Trees already stressed by drought can be harmed by a heavy application of herbicide in the root zone.



For more information on tree care, visit [www.claremontca.org/trees](http://www.claremontca.org/trees) or call Claremont Community Services at (909) 399-5431