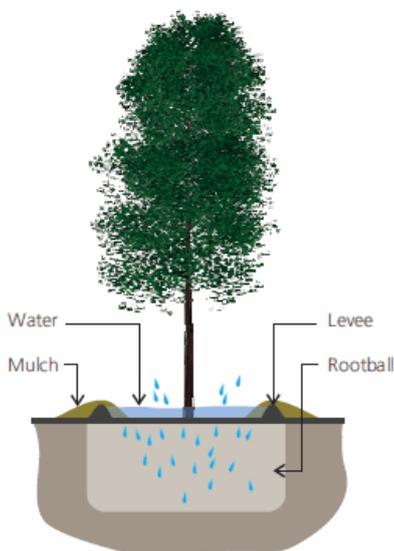




Make Sure Your New Trees Thrive

After being planted (carefully), the single most important need of a newly-planted tree is to receive adequate moisture.

Water must be concentrated on the existing rootball



- A newly-planted tree *can only access moisture that is within its rootball*.
- Eventually it will send out new roots into the surrounding soils and gradually become self-sufficient. But, until then, *it needs help*.
- *Moisture will not flow from wet surrounding soils back into the rootball*. So, watering must concentrate on wetting the rootball itself.
- The best and simplest way to deliver moisture into the rootball is via *drippers* placed directly on top of the rootball and connected to an *automatic irrigation system*.
- If irrigation is available but not automatic, *someone must be assigned to operate manual systems regularly* during the first 6 to 12 weeks (at a *minimum* and depending on the season).
- If no irrigation is available and hand watering is necessary, *a sturdy levee that will retain water must be built* (and maintained) around the edge of the rootball of each tree.
- The pond created within the levee should be *regularly filled* with water.
- But *gently!* Strong jets from hoses and water trucks actually deliver less useable water and wash away the levees.
- Do not rely on general garden sprinklers or underground systems until the tree is clearly established.
- Do not stop watering in the event of rain. It might wet the ground but, unless heavy and/or prolonged, *rain normally will not deliver adequate moisture to the rootball*.
- Water loss can be reduced and soil conditions improved by adding an *organic mulch* to the area on top of and adjacent to the rootball. (But, make sure that this mulch is not heaped up against the stem of the tree).
- *Monitor the trees for signs of wilt* as part of the initial maintenance programme. Adjust watering levels accordingly.

Seasonal Considerations

- Trees establish more readily in autumn than in spring or summer.
- With autumn planting, the period when concentrated attention must be given to trees will be shorter than in spring or summer - maybe as little as 6 weeks, after which watering may be reduced.
- Trees planted in spring, particularly late spring, are trying to establish as they enter the harshest time of the year.
- In the case of spring or summer plantings, longer nursing and greater vigilance are essential.

These recommendations assume the trees are planted correctly into sites with good drainage.