

# Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



Volume 7, Number 2

July 2010 Issue

A Publication of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office  
Janis A. Bobrin, Water Resources Commissioner



## In This Month's eMonitor

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## Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep our Partners and friends updated on CPCS, stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

## Newly Planted Trees

Many newly trees die because they are over or under watered. So how much water is the right amount? The truth is, it depends on many factors including species type, age of the tree, climate, weather, tree size, and soil composition. For example, larger trees will tend to be at greater risk. This is a result of trying to replace all of their roots that were cut when the tree was removed from its original location.

Heavy clay soils hold the most moisture because they prevent water from soaking down out of the range of root systems. However, if your soil has poor moisture retention, one way of addressing the issue of is to use mulch. When mulch is used, there is less evaporation from the soil, and less moisture is taken by grass.

This issue of the eMonitor covers proper watering techniques for newly planted trees, and it provides tips on how to use mulch so that your plants are using water efficiently.



## The Best Way to Plant

There are several guidelines based on tree size and other factors that can be followed to make sure your trees are planted correctly and are receiving the right amount of water.

Trees Age (Yrs)	Sq. Ft of Root Zone	Gals. Water/Tree/Week to Replace 1" Net Water Loss/Week		Gals. Water/Tree/Day to Replace 1" Net Water Loss/Week	
		100%	75%	100%	75%
1	7 (3' circle)	4.4	3.3	0.63	0.47
2	13 (4' circle)	7.8	5.9	1.10	0.80
3	20 (5' circle)	12.4	9.3	1.80	1.35
4	28 (6' circle)	17.5	13.0	2.50	1.90
5	38 (7' circle)	23.8	17.9	3.40	2.55
6	50 (8' circle)	31.1	23.3	4.40	3.30
7	64 (9' circle)	39.4	29.5	5.70	4.30
8	79 (10' circle)	48.7	36.5	7.00	5.25
9	95 (11' circle)	58.9	44.2	8.40	6.30
10+	113 (12' circle)	70.1	52.3	10.10	7.60



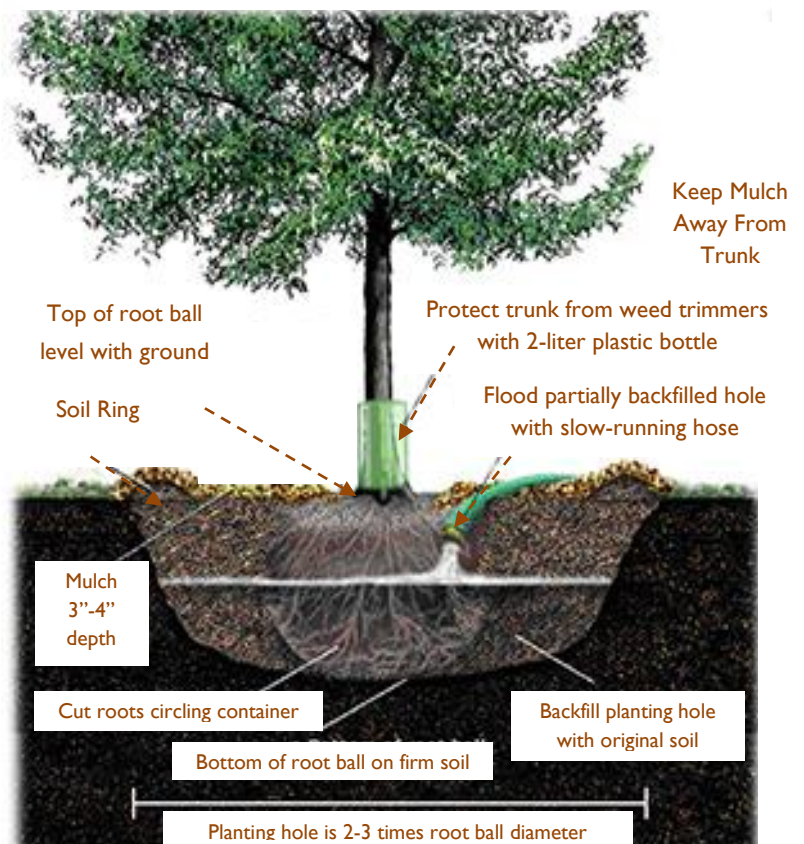
The diagram above displays the amount of water that is required, per week or per day, for a tree based on age and area of its root zone. The numbers are based on a loss of one inch of water per week. For a more conservative watering, only replace 75% of the net loss.

Using trickle irrigation or drip irrigation systems is one way to conserve water and still meet the needs of your trees. These methods use very small amounts of water applied directly to the soil, which reduces evaporation. Making sure water is placed where it will do the most good (tree base) also will reduce the amount of waste.

The diagram to the right displays the techniques that should be used when planting a new tree.

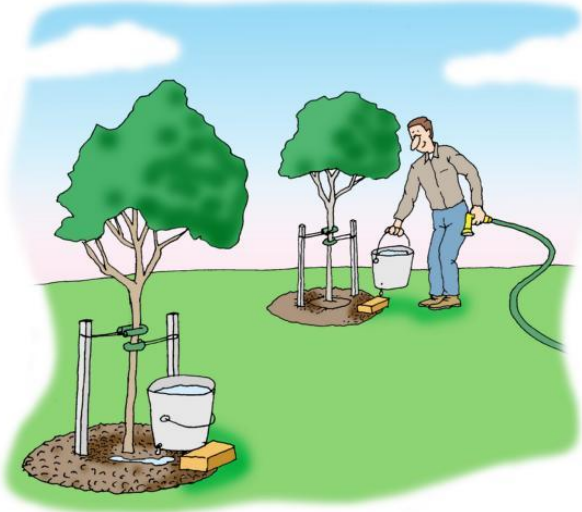
It is important to keep mulch away from the trunk because this could cause decay of the tree itself.

## Plant Your Tree Properly



## Water and Mulch Techniques

Here are several tips to follow for watering and mulching your newly planted trees.



### Tree Watering Guidelines

- ✓ If there is no rain, water 2-3 times a week
- ✓ Newly planted trees need their soil to be kept moist underneath the mulch. If it's dry it needs water
- ✓ Heavy clay soils mean more water retention so be careful; overwatering causes root rotting
- ✓ Make sure water is reaching soil under mulch. Slow watering is better than a sprinkler

### Tree Watering Bags

Another option for watering trees is using tree bags. This is a slow release watering system for new trees which delivers a high volume of water directly to the root system of a newly planted tree with no run-off or evaporation. Bags save you time, money and effort, all while properly and efficiently watering your new trees.

### Why Mulch?

Mulch provides benefits for growth and health. It helps retain moisture for the 85% of tree roots that grow in the top layers of soil. Plus it keeps lawn mowers away from trunks.

### Guidelines for Mulching

- ✓ Mulch around tree base in 2-4 inch layer to protect roots and allow water flow
- ✓ Keep 2-3 inches away from tree trunk
- ✓ Extend mulch to the edge of the branches
- ✓ Use a 1 inch layer of compost covered by 2-3 inches of mulch for best results
- ✓ Maintain a V-notch edge around the tree to keep grass out
- ✓ Replenish each year or as needed



## CPCS News

### **New Community Partners**

Welcome to our new partners this month and thank you to our renewing ones. Together we can make a difference to keep Washtenaw County's waterways clean!

### ***New Partners***

Chester Engineers, Inc., Ann Arbor  
South Lyon Salem Library



### ***Renewing Partners***

Nichols Arboretum	Industrial Tectonics
Pittsfield Township	Leslie Science Center
Pollack & Associates	Eastern Michigan University
500 S. Main	Ann Arbor Hands on Museum
USEPA NVFEL	

## Educational Materials

The Water Resources Commissioner's Office provides our educational materials and brochures at no cost to our partners. Please contact our office to place a request.

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## Contact Us

### **Community Partners for Clean Streams**

705 N. Zeeb Road, PO Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

Meghan Bonfiglio, Senior Environmental Planner (734) 222-6833  
[bonfigliom@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:bonfigliom@ewashtenaw.org)

Sue Johnson, Environmental Planning Intern (734) 222-6813  
[johnsonse@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:johnsonse@ewashtenaw.org)

<http://drain.ewashtenaw.org>

