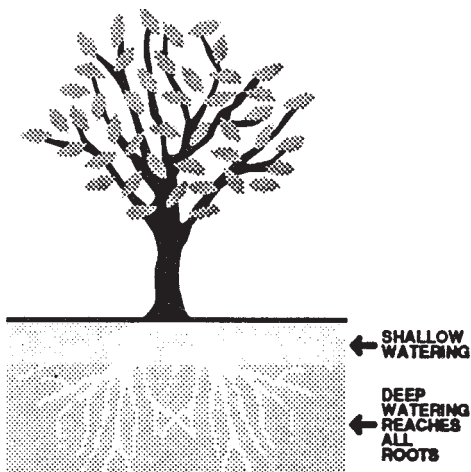




Six Ways to Keep Your Newly Planted Tree Alive and Healthy

James Nichnadowicz, Union County 4-H Agent

1.



Quench your tree's thirst.

Once a week, your tree needs a deep watering. If you don't receive enough rain, use your hose. A slow trickle for an hour, over the whole root area, will suffice.

2.



Don't tread on it.

Tree roots need air, water, and open space in the soil. Driving over the soil, or lots of foot traffic, will collapse the open space in the soil, blocking a good flow of air and water to the roots.

3.



Give it room to grow.

The ties that connect the tree stakes to your tree can be removed after one year. Leave the stakes in to protect the tree from mowers.

4.

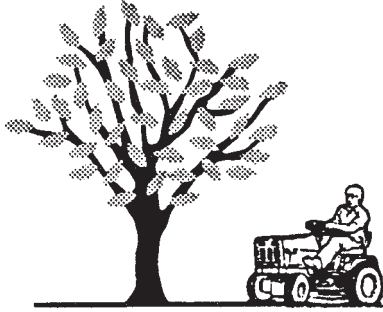


Mulch.

A 3-inch layer of wood chips, over the planting site, will prevent weeds from invading and will eliminate the need to mow closely to the tree. Weeds and lawn grass roots rob the tree roots of nutrients.



5.



Protect the bark.

Scraping or cutting your tree's bark may allow pests to attack it. Be extra careful when using weedeaters and lawn mowers near your tree.

6.



Keep the soil clean.

Weedkillers and excess fertilizer can harm your tree's roots. Read your labels carefully before spraying or feeding.