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WPRF news release

Please Help! Our Trees Need a Drink!

Street Trees need watering due to current drought conditions

Waukesha, WI, June 25, 2012: We are experiencing serious drought conditions throughout Southeast Wisconsin. All trees, both large and small, are being stressed by a lack of moisture. This includes the street tree in front of your home. Trees and plant material in general, become much more vulnerable to insects and disease when they lack adequate water.

Tree Watering Survival Guide (How you can help)

- w Place a garden hose underneath the crown of the tree near the trunk.
- w Set the hose to a slow trickle, water 25 minutes for large trees and 15 minutes for smaller trees.
- w Move the hose 3 or 4 times during watering.
- w Or use a 5 gallon bucket and dump 2 buckets on small trees 2 – 4" in diameter and 4 – 5 buckets of water on larger trees.
- w Repeat this process every 7 – 10 days until there is adequate rain.
- w Use a shredded bark or woodchip mulch around your tree. Mulch reduces evaporation and improves water absorption.
- w Trees near construction zones may require more watering.
- w Older, bigger yard trees can also suffer from moisture stress. Water a larger tree with a sprinkler during the evening or early morning to reduce evaporation. When a coffee can has 1" of water, turn off the sprinkler.

Because our community trees provide us with many economic, environmental, social and aesthetic benefits, it is VERY important to keep them healthy. Remember to please follow all local watering restrictions which limit watering on odd numbered addresses to Tuesdays and Saturdays and even numbered addresses to Thursdays and Sundays. Please water prior to 9:00 am or after 5:00 pm.

Thank You!

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