

# Properly watering trees

**Warning: Frequent short watering is detrimental to trees and lawns in several ways:**

- 1) Most of water will not get into deeper soils where it is needed for healthy root growth to maintain healthy plants.
- 2) Most of water will evaporate, since it is not being retained by soil.
- 3) Since the water is not benefiting plants, money for water will be wasted.

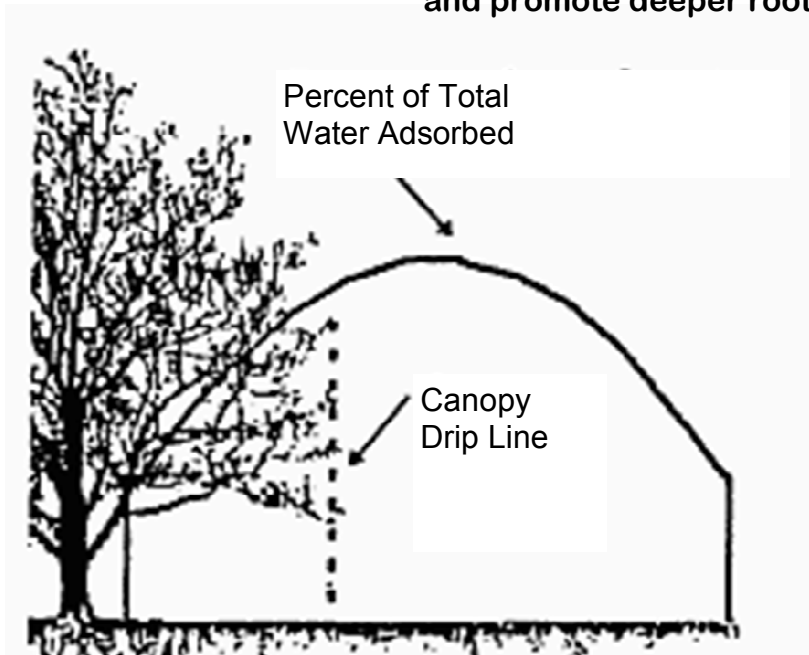
**Warning: Over watering can be detrimental to trees in several ways:**

- 1) If too much water is being placed on area around tree causing soils to remain soaked throughout week, roots of trees will be smothered and will cause the tree to be stressed, or possibly die.
- 2) Spending money for more water than needed can be costly.

To properly water trees, trees should receive a minimum of 1" of water per week, either from rainfall, or irrigation. If 1" of rainfall is not received in a given week, then trees should be watered with some means of irrigation.

You can see how much rainfall you have gotten in our area by checking on-line at [www.noaa.org](http://www.noaa.org). However, the amount that falls in a region can vary, so it may be better to have a rain gauge on your property in an open area free from overhead obstructions, to better measure amounts of local rainfall.

If your tree needs to be watered by some form of irrigation, plan on watering 1 and 1/2 the canopy area of the tree with one inch of water, once per week during dry weeks (see diagram below). This, infrequent, deep soaking method, will help get water deeper into soils to help soils retain moisture longer, promote healthier root growth, and promote deeper root growth.



A simple way to measure to see if you get one inch of water is to set a cup or can with straight edges in the portion of the lawn being irrigated, and time the amount of time it takes you sprinkler to water and fill the container up to 1". Then, you will know the length of time to water for the portion of the lawn under the tree each week.

Water 1 & 1/2 times the drip line to maximize efficient irrigation