



Tree and Shrub Irrigation during a Drought

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During a severe drought, the goal for tree and shrub irrigation is twofold; reduce water use to save precious water and money, yet use enough water to preserve your substantial investment in your landscape trees and shrubs.

Irrigating large trees is often misunderstood. Laying a hose at the trunk of a large tree and letting it run for hours does not water a tree and can waste huge amounts of water. In addition, sprinkler irrigation systems do not water trees. They simply do not apply enough volume of water to meet the tree's requirement.

To irrigate trees and large shrubs within a lawn area, apply water just inside and a little beyond the “dripline”, not at the trunk. The dripline is the area directly below the outermost reaches of the branches. This is where the feeding root system of a tree or shrub is located.

Simply lay a slowly running hose on the ground and move it around the dripline as each area becomes saturated to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. For large trees, this watering technique may take several hours.

In the continued absence of significant rainfall, large trees and shrubs will benefit from a twice a month watering to help them survive drought and heat.

For more information on creating a healthy and sustainable landscape environment we invite you to visit our website at <http://EarthKind.tamu.edu> or contact your local County Extension office.