



Since 1990

# TreeMasters, Inc.

*"making a better future; for your trees, for your environment"*

## Irrigation: the most Critical Action for Urban Trees

When new trees are bought and planted into the lawn and landscape, the most critical care action is the irrigation; even more so than fertilization! Most people do it wrong. Many "Green Professionals" do it wrong, too!!

Below are the directions for proper tree irrigation.

Many TreeMasters' clients have heard this axiom, "*Trees don't drink through straws.*" The worst way to water a tree is to lay down the hose and let it trickle! WHY? This action creates a 12" wet zone, while the rest of the roots stay dry. Also, most manual watering is not measured or metered, so, how do you know when enough is enough?

### Proper Tree Irrigation:

Tree irrigation must be done weekly and the water should be spread over the whole root zone.

Trees need long, deep watering, not short, shallow bursts.

Sufficiently-watered soils are softer which allows the new roots to "plow" though it easier.

Good soil moisture is critical for the "web of life", microflora and fauna. This is needed for healthy soils and benefits trees that are growing vigorously.

### Proper Tree Irrigation Procedure:

1. Deliver 1" of water over the whole root zone weekly.
  2. To determine the proper size of the root zone to water, calculate 10" of root zone per 1" tree trunk. A tree with a 3" diameter trunk would require a minimum of 30" of watered root zone.
  3. Use a sprinkler head on the hose to distribute the water broadly.
  4. Place a container under the tree: use any bowl, a jar or cup, which can serve as a watering gauge. Run the sprinkler to cover the area. When one inch of water is in the container, the tree has received enough irrigation for the week.
- Rain fall can be subtracted from the dosage, if you monitor it. For most landscape trees "a little more" is not a bad thing.

**For nearly 30 years TreeMasters has been managing trees in northern Indiana's landscapes. As "Tree Doctors" we not only make house calls, we deliver 21st Century Science for plant health and disease/insect control. Our Arborists "touch" and work on trees daily.**

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