



## Newly Planted Plants and Drought Stress



Newly planted trees and shrubs can take some time to establish a strong enough root system to support themselves so will need to rely on you to provide water and nutrition in order for them to thrive and survive.

Drought stress can be caused by many factors, if combined your plant will need lots of TLC and water to help establish properly. Drought stress is normally due to hot weather, windy conditions, poor planting practices and dry soil. Some issues may be due to where the plant has been placed; too near to paving, in a rain shadow, competition from surrounding plants or weeds or simply the wrong plant in the wrong place.

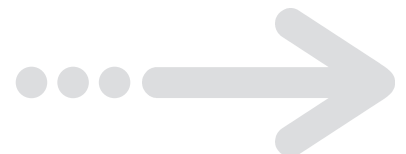
Newly planted trees and shrubs will not yet have established a root system and will need to rely on you to provide watering needs in order to thrive and survive.

Given overleaf are guidelines only. Conditions in your particular area or soil type and recent weather conditions will mean that you may need to adapt some of them to suit. These guidelines are applicable to trees, specimen shrubs and climbers.

### Signs of stress are relatively easy to spot

- Wilting foliage
- Leaves curling or brown at the edges
- Older foliage looking yellow and weak
- Premature leaf drop
- Branch die back
- Splits in the bark
- Dry soil around the plant

**Some signs of stress may only show in extreme conditions but treatment is best applied at the onset of any of these signs of stress.**



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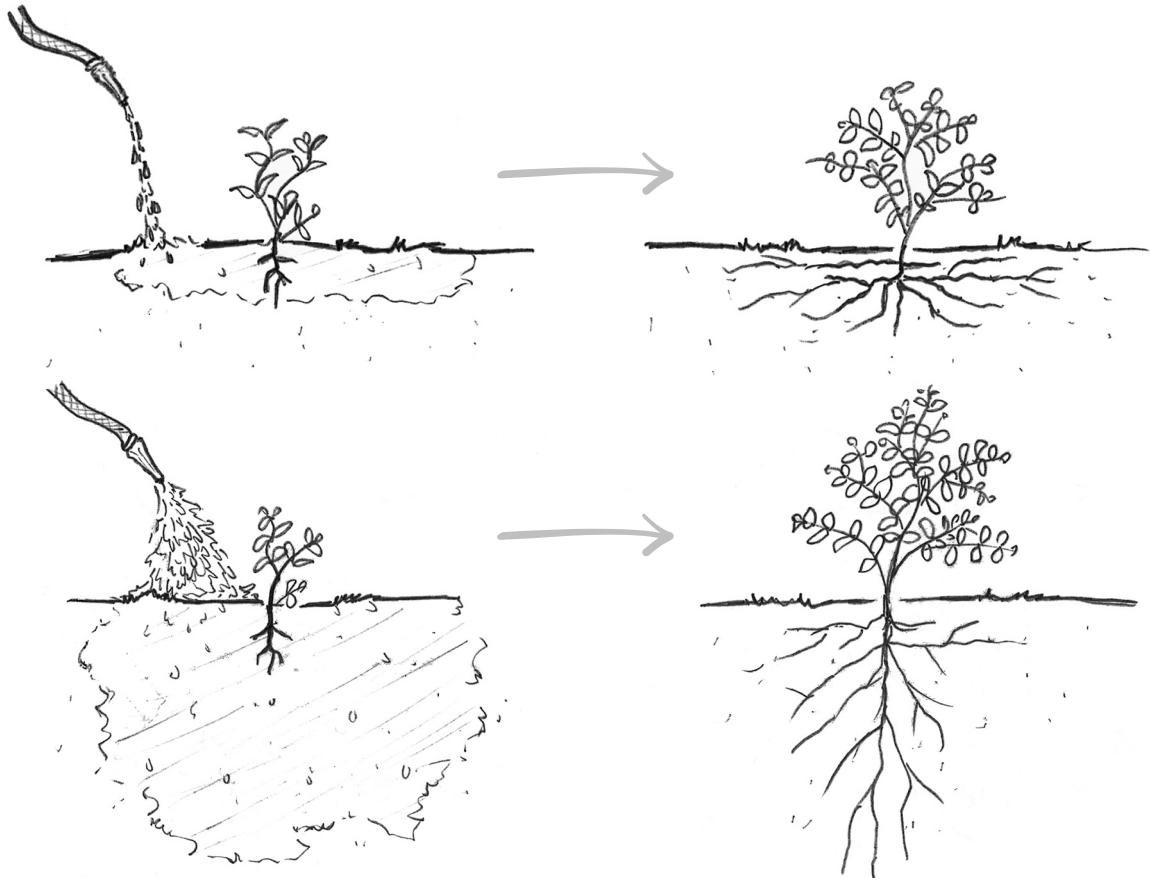


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# What to do

**There is no golden rule of one size fits all. Following these guidelines at the first signs of stress will help to ensure your tree is less stressed and able to put out roots.**

- Water on a regular basis throughout the growing season (March to Sept) even when the weather is overcast and windy
- Water for 3 years after planting. After this your tree should be self sufficient with a root system that can find water and sustain growth
- Water in the early morning or evening if possible
- Take your time when watering. Watering slowly ensures the soil gets a thorough soaking and gets down to the roots where it is needed. Watering so only the soil surface gets water will result in a shallow root system that will still have issues in periods of drought or windy condition



- Water around the tree not just around the tree trunk. This is where most of the roots will need and want to grow to. Water all around underneath the canopy
- Mulch around your tree to a depth of 7cm to retain moisture in the soil and keep the roots cool. Make sure the mulch does not touch the tree stem
- Leaky pipe or a timed watering system can really help in times of stress; hot weather and/or windy conditions. If possible use a timer to water in the early morning or evening