

Parks and Forestry Spring Tree Tips

Tree watering

- Water trees on a regular basis, throughout the year. In the off season months (when the sprinkler system is not on) add 8-10 gallons of water per trunk diameter. The preferred method is with a root feeder. Another method is with a bucket with small holes drilled in the bottom.

Tree pruning

- One of the best times of the year to prune trees is in the spring, before the tree buds have opened. This rule only applies to deciduous trees, not evergreen s. Evergreens should never be pruned.
- Prune trees for structure when they are young. Remove broken branches. Prune out crossing branches. Prune branches that may present a visibility or safety problem in the future. Prune branches that may interfere with a house, garage, fence or other obstruction in the future.
- Try not to prune branches that are more than 1 ½" in diameter. The resulting wound may never seal over.
- Avoid flush cuts and/or stub cuts.
- Don't use pruning paint or dope on a fresh wound. These products interfere with normal tree sealing processes.
- Use sharp pruning tools.

Tree mulch

- Remove grass and other plant material away from the trunks of trees. Install mulch 2" thick around the base of the tree in a 3' diameter circle. This will help to retain moisture, and keep lawn mowers/string trimmers from damaging the trunk.

Tree wrap and stakes

- Remove tree wrap and stakes that may have been installed the previous year. Remove the wrap on or near Easter Sunday.

Tree pests or diseases

- Carefully examine the tree trunk, branches, stems, buds and leaves for evidence of any pest or disease problems that may be present. Look for any changes that may not seem normal.

Leaves and other litter

- Rake up and properly dispose of leaves, stems and tree branches. This may prevent any undesirable fungus present in these materials from spreading.

If you are experiencing any tree issues or problems, don't hesitate to contact Thornton Forestry at 303-255-7875 or lynn.lathrop@cityofthornton.net