

# Care Tips for Newly Planted Street-Trees

Your newly planted street-tree should give you years of enjoyment if you follow these tips provided by the East Aurora Village Tree Board and the Village of East Aurora Department of Public Works .

## WATERING

Watering is the single most important thing you can do for your tree during the first three years. **Your tree should receive 10-20 gallons of water per week** unless there has been over an inch of rainfall. Ideal watering methods include soaker hoses left to drip for several hours, a Treegator® watering bag\*, or a small plastic garbage can or several 5-gallon buckets with a few 1/8 inch holes drilled in the bottom. These methods allow the water to seep slowly to the roots. Watering with a spray hose is rarely sufficient and often the water merely runs off or evaporates - never reaching the roots. **Ooze Tube watering devices are available for purchase from the village office at 571 Main St. for \$15.44 each.** \*Treegator® tree watering bags are available from Gemplers.com (800-382-8473) or Forestry-Suppliers.com (800-647-5368) and some local nurseries.



Treegator



Ooze Tube



Soaker Hose



Garbage can/  
bucket method



Mulching benefits a tree in many ways. It helps retain moisture and maintains even soil temperature. Slow decay of organic mulch can add nutrients to the soil. Weed control is another important benefit of mulch. **Damage done to the bark of young trees through weed wacking and scars from lawn mower scrapes can result in poor growth and even kill the tree.** Always mulch tree root zones and hand-pull any weeds that grow near the trunk. NEVER weed wack against the trunk or strike the trunk with the mower.

Proper mulching looks like diagram A. Mulch should be applied at a depth of 2 inches. Diagram B illustrates the *improper* "volcano" mulching popular in many landscapes. Unfortunately, volcano mulching can lead to problems for the tree by encouraging rot and insects. Keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk so that the flare where tree roots begin is exposed. Mulch should never touch the bark of the tree!

A



B



## FERTILIZATION

Fertilizing is usually unnecessary, and too much fertilizer can actually burn the roots or overstimulate crown growth, making it harder for the tree to survive drought. *Avoid using herbicides or weed-killing lawn fertilizers in the root zone.*

## STAKING

Staking is usually not necessary except in extremely windy sites or to protect trees from vandalism. If you must stake a young tree, allow room for normal sway in the wind. This aids root development and strengthens the trunk. Cover wires with rubber to protect the bark, and remove all wires after one year. If your tree has been staked, the DPW will remove the stakes at the appropriate time for your tree. Please do not interfere with the staking unless directed to do so by the DPW.

## PRUNING

Trees planted in the village right-of-way may not be pruned without prior permission from the East Aurora Department of Public Works. In addition, trees near power lines may only be pruned by NYSEG-certified tree services. If you do prune your trees, it is critical that the pruning be done correctly. *Trees can heal over wounds if the pruning is done according to the following diagrams.* Pruning is best done when the tree is dormant - in late winter or early spring. Fall is not ideal, as fungal spores and other diseases are more likely to enter wounds at that time of year. Never cut flush with the trunk or leave a stub, which can allow decay and insects to enter the tree. Excellent information on tree pruning can be obtained from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, The National Arbor Day Foundation ([www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)) or the International Society of Arboriculture ([www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)). For larger branches and mature trees, hiring an arborist or tree care professional is recommended. *Please note: It is against the law for anyone other than the Village DPW to remove a street-tree. Violators may be fined up to the full value of the tree. A mature street-tree can be valued at thousands of dollars.*

### Proper Pruning Practices

Illustration courtesy of the National Arbor Day Foundation

