



CHICAGO
REGION
TREES
INITIATIVE

Our Trees.
Our Communities.
Our Future.

ChicagoRTI.org

Resources to Care For Your Newly Adopted Tree

1. Plant Your Tree!

1-5g: Watch this 5 min [video](#) on how to properly plant a containerized sapling. Planting your tree correctly will significantly improve their health and lifespan.

10-15g: Watch this 5 min [video](#) on planting a larger, containerized tree. The video does not show 1 crucial step: uncovering a tree's root flare! Trees planted too-deep often have long-term health issues. Read this helpful [document](#) to learn how to find a tree's root flare.

2. Learn More About Caring For Your Tree

CRTI's [Homeowner Hub](#) has resources that will help you care for your new tree and add more native species into your backyard. Learn the benefits of properly mulching plants, get access to the US Forest Service's tree owners manual, and more.

2A) Trees Need Consistent Watering

Water your tree weekly during the growing season, May-October, for the next 3 years. During this time, tree roots grow beyond the planting hole to find essential water and nutrients. Consistent watering will ensure your tree survives and thrives. Trees require 10-15 gallons of water each week during the growing season (see graphic below). Watering during the summer is especially important!

4. Log Your Tree on Our Interactive Map in 3 minutes

Our Canopy Counts Program provides a simple and fun tool for residents to help track new trees and view existing ones in their neighborhood. Log your new sapling on the interactive map to help improve this tree network [here](#)!

3. Sign up for CRTI's Newsletter

Join us at community tree planting events every spring and fall, and stay up to date on tree-related events and resources in your area! Sign up [here](#).

Having trouble growing your tree?

Ask The Morton Arboretum's free [Plant Clinic](#)!

Water your new tree weekly! Graphic available in Spanish.



HELP TREES GROW

More tips on trees at ChicagoRTI.org/TreeCare.





TREES NEED WATER WEEKLY

May - October

- Pour water slowly over the root zone.
- First 3 years: 3 buckets once a week.
- After 3 years: Continue watering weekly when soil is dry at 3 inch depth.



5 gal 5 gal 5 gal

3 in

SPREAD MULCH

- Spread mulch over the root zone.
- Make an even layer 3 inches deep.
- Mulch should not touch the trunk!



— — — — — ROOT ZONE — — — — —