



## NEWS ARTICLE

### A Little TLC for My Tree

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As living plants, trees need some TLC, tender-loving care. Due to their higher tolerance for harsh conditions, trees are often assumed to be self-sufficient. The following are three important things to do for trees.



**Water.** Be sure to give the tree lots of water. According to the University of Tennessee, the exact amount of water a tree requires is impossible to specify due to soil differences, weather conditions, and the type of tree planted. The University suggests keeping the soil moist but not wet. For new trees or transplanted trees, they recommend frequent, light watering. Contrarily, large, established trees do well with less frequent, large volumes of water.

**Mulch.** The University of Tennessee recommends placing a layer of mulch around the tree to facilitate infiltration of water into the soil, to conserve water in the soil, and to help prevent weeds. Mulch should be two to three inches deep and approximately four feet in diameter. The mulch should not touch the trunk of the tree to prevent sitting moisture, which brews disease and rodent problems. They also recommend not using plastic beneath mulch as a weed controller. The plastic prevents oxygen flow to the roots and can cause damage to the tree.

**Pruning.** Pruning is a delicate art. If too much of a tree is removed, it can damage or kill the tree. However, refraining from pruning is not best for the tree either. When pruning, first determine the reason for pruning. According to the University of Minnesota, several reasons include promoting tree health, improving appearance, and protecting people and property. The University strongly recommends pruning in late winter or early spring, just before new growth begins, a time best for the tree to heal the wounds left from pruning. Go to their website to find the best time to prune a specific kind of tree.



With its needs met, a tree can last years to come and provide many benefits to the surrounding environment. As homeowners and community members, it is important to give trees what they need so they can give us what we need.