Tree planting is a long-term investment

with the desired benefits (large canopy trees, air quality, stormwater, energy savings, public health, increased property values, carbon sequestration, etc.) not being fully achieved for 50 or more years. To maximize these benefits for the lowest cost to the community, stewardship and maintenance are required throughout the trees life. Developing a vigorous and healthy tree during the establishment period is the next critical step once planted. Doing your part to help maintain and grow Kitchener’s future urban forest is appreciated.

### Life Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age(Yr)</th>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Establish</th>
<th>Young</th>
<th>Mid Age</th>
<th>Mature</th>
<th>Heritage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>3 - 25</td>
<td>26 - 50</td>
<td>50 - 100</td>
<td>&gt; 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Three Easy Steps To Growing A Healthy Tree

1. **Water**: Once a week (May to October) fill the green watering bag provided by the City with 20 gallons (75 liters) of water.

2. **Mulch**: Maintain and replenish the mulch around the tree. Do not mound the mulch at the base of the trunk.

3. **Protect**: The tree trunk from lawnmowers and grass trimmers. Do not plant anything in the mulched area.

*For more information see the back of this page.*
How much water does my tree require?

During normal summer conditions, **20 gallons (75 liters of water) a week will maintain a healthy tree**, and provide enough water for the tree to re-generate its root system. Should drought conditions develop the City may identify the need to water more frequently. **All watering must conform to the Region of Waterloo - Water Conservation Bylaw #07-069.**

How do I maintain my mulch?

Maintaining mulch around a tree is one of the best things you can do to grow healthy trees. Grass and other plants compete with the tree and slows the growth of trees. To maintain the mulch use the **3-3-3 rule** (3" of mulch in a 3 foot ring with a 3" space between the mulch and tree trunk). Keeping mulch away from the trunk of the tree is very important. While a common practice (referred to as **volcano mulching**) it reduces oxygen and moisture levels in the soil and leads trunk rot.

Should I fertilize my tree?

No - there is no scientific research that supports the fertilizing of newly planted trees. Your new tree will benefit from you adding 1” of composted garden waste each spring and fall - you can pull the mulch away and spread this across the trees root zone.

To learn more about Kitchener’s Urban Forest go to www.kitchener.ca and search “parks”

To learn more about the care of trees go to www.treesaregood.com

---

**Urban Forest Stewardship - Street Trees**

**Managing Kitchener’s Urban Forest For Today & Tomorrow**