



How's it growing?

### *A visit from your Summer Tree Inspector*

Hi neighbor! I'm \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm a volunteer with Friends of Trees. I came by to see how your new tree is doing. Please check out the information below, and thank you for greening our neighborhood!

#### **1. WATER**

***Is the soil moist?*** Does the tree appear to be getting enough water? A young tree needs water during the dry summer months to survive. Each tree requires one 15-gallon soak each week during the dry season for the first five years. And a second soaking during a heat wave.

***FOT recommends:*** Make sure to provide a slow, deep watering each week to encourage deep root growth. *Frequent surface watering is bad – this results in weak, shallow, vulnerable roots.*

#### **2. MULCH**

***Is the tree properly mulched?*** Mulch shades the soil, holds onto water, regulates temperature, and prevents weed and grass growth in the root zone.

***FOT recommends:*** Create a ring of mulch around tree that is 3-in deep, 3-ft in diameter, leaving at least a 3-in space between the trunk and mulch. *Do not pile mulch against trunk.*

#### **3. WEEDS OR GRASS**

***Is the root zone free of weeds and grass?*** Grass and weeds compete with your tree for water and nutrients.

***FOT recommends:*** Keep the root zone covered with mulch and hand pull any weeds within 3ft of trunk. *Do not use a string trimmer / weed whacker / mower near the trunk.*



#### 4. BARK DAMAGE?

***Is bark free of injury or damage?*** Bark protects a tree’s water and nutrient transportation system. Avoiding bark damage is crucial to a young tree’s success.

***FOT recommends:*** Be careful not to damage the tree trunk with lawn mowers, string trimmers, car doors, etc. Use mulch ring and stakes as a barrier.



#### 5. BROKEN BRANCHES?

***Is tree canopy intact and free of broken branches?*** To reduce hazards and to protect from further damage, remove dead or broken branches using proper pruning techniques.

***FOT recommends:*** Prune off any dead or broken branches. Any additional pruning should be saved until tree is established, at least 2 years after planting. *Don’t stub-cut branches, hedge, sheer, or “top” your tree.*



#### 6. SUCKERS?

***Is tree free of sucker growth?*** Suckers are new growth from the base of the tree. They divert energy away from crown and root development.

***FOT recommends:*** Remove any sucker growth at the base of the tree immediately.

#### NOTES:

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***This is our 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup>/backyard\* visit. If you did not receive all thumbs up, we have provided tips to keep your tree healthy and happy! \*Staff will inspect backyard trees in the second half of July. Look for our email notification about the exact date.***

***Check out our webpage to learn more about our programming:***

<https://friendsoftrees.org/news-resources/summer-inspector-program/>

***For additional tree care and pruning information:***

[www.friendsoftrees.org/tree-care-guide](http://www.friendsoftrees.org/tree-care-guide)

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