

URBAN FORESTRY:

WATERING TREES DURING DROUGHT

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Drought is, unfortunately, becoming the new normal here in Arizona. According to [Drought Monitor](#), 87% of Arizona is under “Extreme Drought” conditions. This makes fires more frequent, declining water levels inevitable, and managing trees on urban and private properties challenging.

When planning or upgrading your landscape, select trees well-adapted to dry conditions no matter where you are in Arizona. Utilize [lists of native trees by elevation on the DFFM](#) website or the [Arizona Municipal Water Users Association](#).

Apply water regularly to establish trees and if using a drip irrigation system, emitters should be placed near the tree’s dripline or root zone and not next to the trunk.

Once established, large trees, especially in higher elevations, do not need regular watering. If you do water, maintenance schedules for trees should be set to be deep (~12 inches) and infrequent, following anticipated seasonal rainfall, should it arrive. Doing so earlier in the morning before the heat of the day reduces evaporation. Careful planning reduces water use and will help your trees live long, healthy lives.

