



MAYOR **CRAIG NEWTON** · MAYOR PRO TEM **JOSH BARE** · COUNCILMAN **ANDREW HIXSON** · COUNCILWOMAN **ELAINE PUCKETT**
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SUMMER TREE TIPS

Trees provide valuable benefits to your property including cooling during warm weather and reduced utility costs. Just like other landscape plants, your trees need care, especially during extreme heat and drought. Below are some tips for keeping your trees healthy.

- ♣ **SPREAD MULCH** - Mulching around your trees is the number one thing you can do to improve health. In a forest, the trees leaves and other organic debris form a blanket on the soil that retains moisture and adds organic material to the soil. The best approach is to add 3 to 4 inches of wood mulch over the soil beneath the tree out to the drip line (the area under the canopy). Less coverage is acceptable but the more the better. This is especially important during times of drought. And wood mulch is usually FREE.
- ♣ **WATERING** – Water your trees during the summer if there is no rain for more than 2 weeks. A good soaking is recommended at least once per week during drought periods. Keeping a layer of mulch around the tree holds in moisture and cools the soil so less watering may be needed.



- ♣ **HAZARD TREES** – Strong winds from summer thunderstorms can bring down even healthy trees or limbs but dead limbs are most likely to fall during storms. Look up and check trees and limbs over your driveway, home, and play areas in your yard to see if pruning is needed. Best to hire a qualified and insured tree service to do this work.
- ♣ **REMOVE ENGLISH IVY** – English ivy provides NO benefit to your trees and actually harms them. The ivy takes water and nutrients from the soil that the tree needs. As the ivy climbs the tree, it may smother the leaves and adds a LOT of extra weight that may bring a tree down during a storm. Ivy at the base of the tree increases the chances of



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rot in the roots and trunk. Cut the ivy near the base of the tree and clear it back from the trunk at least 4 feet.



- ♣ **PLANTING** – Planting trees during the summer is NOT recommended. The best planting time is fall through late winter (end of March in the south). This gives the tree time to set roots before the hot dry summer weather. If you are planting during the late spring or summer, the tree may need extra care; mulch and regular watering are recommended.
- ♣ **PROTECT ROOTS** – Tree roots are often on or near the surface in yards. Damage from lawn mowers or string trimmers can introduce insects and pathogens and weaken your trees. Cover the roots with mulch or a layer of soil as much as possible and be careful when mowing.

