



Trees Need the Whole Community's Help to Recover from Drought



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With the snow and rain this spring, it's easy to forget that 2012 was a drought year for most of our region. That drought was hard on trees and its effects may last for years, although they may not appear immediately. The impact of the drought of 2012 may take a year or more to show up in our trees.

Some trees that were overstressed by the drought and heat may not leaf out this spring or may have bare limbs. Their growth may slow down and they may produce few or no seeds. Trees that have been stressed by lack of water also are often prey to insects or disease. What can you do to help? In a word, water, even if it seems that there has been plenty of rain.

Remember that the whole community forest needs your help, including trees on public property as well as your own. Municipal staff often does not have the time or resources to water all of the public property trees. So when you are watering your own trees, please consider setting the sprinkler to water the parkway trees too.

Water the entire area around a tree trunk, as far as the branches extend-out to what professionals call the drip line. Water a tree every one to two weeks, long enough for the water to soak down 12 to 15 inches, where most of a tree's roots are. In intense heat and drought you may need to water more frequently. It is better to water deeply every at intervals than to water more frequently but lightly.

For more information on drought and watering, visit the following websites:

Watering Trees and Shrubs: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/downloads/7853.pdf>

Leaf Scorch: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/downloads/9240.pdf>

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