

Fact Sheet

Watering and Maintaining Your Local Native Trees

After your tree is in the ground, there is still some work to be done. To keep your tree healthy and strong, you will need to water and maintain it.

Watering - how much?

Like ourselves, trees need water to grow, survive and reproduce. Townsville is dry and sunny for most of the year and trees need regular watering for up to 12 months to keep them growing well.

Watering steps:

1. Water your tree slowly and gently with one (9L) bucket when you plant it.
2. The next day, add another bucket of water.
3. Water once a week for the next 12 weeks.
4. Water fortnightly and then monthly or until the tree is well established

How much you water your tree will need, will also be influenced by:

Where your tree is from. Trees that naturally grow in wetter areas such as creek-banks, may need more water than those from dry areas like rocky hillsides.

What your soil is like. If your soil is sandy and well drained, you may have to water more than if you planted in soil higher in clay and which holds water better.

The time of year. Planting just before the Wet Season (November to April) will reduce how much you need to water and will give your tree a good start. Planting when it is drier may mean that you have to water more.

Maintenance – what is it?

Weeding Weeds and trees don't mix! Weeds compete for water and nutrients and can kill young trees. Carefully weed around your tree each time you water it.

Re-mulching Mulch may need to be replaced as it breaks down - remember to keep it away from the plant's stem to avoid stem rot.

Re-staking Replace any missing or broken stakes – especially if they are used to warn people using lawnmowers or whipper-snippers away from your tree.

Re-planting Replace any seedlings that have died.

