

Appendix B: Maintenance Requirements

Your two-year maintenance plan should include and address, at a minimum, all the following elements:

- **Watering:** At least 20 gallons of water should be applied to each tree every two weeks for the first growing season (e.g., from May 1- Oct 31st). Periods of extreme drought may require additional watering. After the second year, water can be reduced to as needed.
- **Mulching:** Mulching allows trees to retain water and mitigate soil erosion, reduce climbing invasives and other unwanted weeds, and protect tree roots from sudden temperature changes. Proper mulching is key to protecting and promoting healthy root growth. Too much mulch can have the opposite effect and cause the tree to decline. To learn more about how to mulch and best practices visit: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/mulching-trees-and-shrubs>
- **Pruning:** For young trees it will be necessary at the time of planting to remove girdling roots from the rootball, dead branches, and branches that are rubbing. These activities will shape the tree for the space and promote healthy growth. After the initial planting additional pruning is likely not needed for 2-3 years until the tree is vigorously growing again. To learn more about how to prune visit: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/pruning-trees>
- **Pest and disease:** Monitor your trees for leaf spots, fungi, insects, and canopy bare spots. If you have concerns about your trees' health, you can send a photo to a Maryland certified professional Horticulturists at the University of Maryland Extension at: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environment-natural-resources/program-areas/home-and-garden-information-center/ask-extension>. A horticulturalist will provide information on steps needed to ensure your tree thrives.
- **Climbing invasives:** For any project that involves planting more than 50 trees on one site, the proposed maintenance plan must address climbing invasives. We recommend manual treatment at least three times per year.
- **Leaf removal:** Ensure that an appropriate leaf removal strategy, based on the type of tree, is built into your plan.
- **Care/mowing around the tree:** One of the biggest threats to new trees is not necessarily poor care of the tree itself, but incompatible maintenance of areas around the tree. For example, weed whacking activities that make contact with the trunk can kill a new tree. Make sure that the tree maintenance plan is integrated with the general site maintenance activities.