



VILLAGE OF DEERFIELD

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR NEW TREE

You will soon have a new tree standing in the parkway in front of your home. You will have a new home for birds, an air conditioner, and a "shady" friend to say nothing of a valuable asset that will increase the beauty and value of your property as the years go by. Village trees are placed in foreign habitats and subjected to stresses that trees in forested situations seldom encounter. The soils in the parkway are not the best, and there is salt and air pollution to contend with; but with some help from you the "new kid on the block" will do just fine. Here are a few simple "tree things" to remember:

WATERING: Please do not drown the new tree. Too much water prevents the new roots from getting the oxygen they need. If there is an irrigation system in your parkway, make sure it doesn't run too often, causing the root system to become flooded. **Do not water the tree every day.** In dry spells, soak the root system every ten to fourteen days.

FERTILIZING: Please do not feed the new tree for at least six months. The contractor adds fertilizer when he plants the tree, and too much food could burn the young roots.

LANDSCAPING: When the new tree is planted, the soil will be placed in a saucer shape around the base of the tree, and should be covered with mulch. This should be allowed to remain for at least one year as a retention basin that channels water to the root system of the tree. After this period, it may be leveled off, but please never mound up dirt around the trunk of the tree. Mounded dirt will inhibit the penetration of water and air into the root zone.

MULCH: To ensure proper soil moisture and temperatures during hot and dry conditions. Two inches of mulch should be placed around tree (not to touch the trunk).

LAWNMOWERS: Please remember that lawn mowers or weed whips and trees do not mix. The trunks of small trees are tender and bruise very easily when contacted by hard objects. Wounds at the base of a tree readily become infected by insect and disease pests.

Not all tree problems can be corrected or controlled, but most can be prevented or avoided with knowledge and care. If we can be of any assistance, please call Dan Busscher, Superintendent of Streets & Utilities at 847-317-7245 (M-F 7:00-3:30).