

# Tips for Planting Trees

- **Always call before you dig!** Digging into unmarked areas is extremely dangerous! Call **1 800 DIG-RITE** to have the location of underground utilities marked. There is no charge for this service.
- Water a new tree soon after planting and then 5-10 gallons every week to 10 days throughout the growing season. Water a new tree each growing season for the next 2-3 years, and after that watering should only be necessary during extended dry periods.
- Build a mound of soil about 4 inches high around the edge of the original planting hole, to create a reservoir for water. 5-10 gallons of water in this reservoir will adequately soak the root system.
- Do not over water a new tree. Large amounts of water in heavy clay soils can be harmful to the tree.
- Mulching with wood chips 2-3 feet around the tree will conserve soil moisture and encourage root development. Do not place mulch around the tree's trunk. Start with no mulch at the base and gradually increase to the depth of 3-4 inches.
- Take care to avoid bumping or scraping the tree's base with a lawn mower or weed trimmer. Damage to the tree's bark is harmful to the tree and can result in poor growth or a tree dying.
- Do not use weed killer or lawn fertilizer containing weed killers, near trees, shrubs or flower beds. Regular lawn fertilizer can be broadcast over the tree's root area during March or April in the second year after planting.

For more information about caring for trees, call IPL at **325-7557**, or contact IPL by [email](#).