



CITY OF BISHOP

377 West Line Street - Bishop, California 93514

Post Office Box 1236 - Bishop, California 93515

760-873-8458 publicworks@ca-bishop.us

www.ca-bishop.us/CityofBishopPublicWorks.htm

Public Works News Release

Care of New Street Trees

During 2009, the City of Bishop will be providing over 150 new street trees to property owners in the city. Proper care is essential for these trees to live and to thrive.

New trees need frequent watering – more water than they will need when they are established. When the trees are first delivered, the roots are contained in a space the size of the containers they arrived in. This concentration of roots is called a root ball. Once in the ground, the area of that root ball is what needs plenty of water. Many assume that if the soil several feet away looks moist that the root ball is moist also and that if the surface is wet that the soil 18 inches down is wet too. This is often not the case.

The new trees were probably watered 3 times per day in mild weather before they were planted. Once planted in Bishop where it is hot, a well or depression should be made around the tree and that depression should be filled with water at least daily. If the water soaks in quickly, fill it again. Just sprinkling the ground surface with a hose nozzle is not likely to reach the thirsty roots. One can get an idea how well your watering is working by probing the root area with a finger to see if it is dry. As the tree grows, deep watering will insure deep rooting with numerous benefits. The tree will be watered deeply if the water soaks slowly and deeply into the ground. Even if a lawn around the tree is watered, lay a slowly dripping hose by the tree twice a week to water the tree deeply and to promote deep roots. Continue watering the tree this way for the first year or two.

The trees should have been planted with a high phosphorus, low nitrogen fertilizer, or at least with a compost mixture that included added organic food. This promotes root growth into the surrounding soil. After 30 to 60 days you should apply an all-purpose fertilizer, a "15-15-15" or "16-16-16", or a "4-4-4" or similar if organic. Liquid fertilizer is also okay, but needs to be applied more frequently.

With proper care the trees will grow healthy and will provide shade, beauty, and a place for birds to nest. Make Bishop even more beautiful - please take care of the trees!

For more information contact City of Bishop Public Works. Press releases posted at <http://www.ca-bishop.us/Advertisements/Releases/Releases.htm>.