

Young Tree Maintenance A 10-Year Punch List

By

Alan Siewert, Urban Forester
ODNR Division of Forestry
Middlefield, Ohio

New Tree Maintenance Punch List

Year 1

At planting

- Prune tree for co-dominate stems.

- Create a watering dish or berm at the edge of the root ball not the planting hole.

- Mulch an 8' dia. area under the tree. Max. of 3 inches deep and NOTHING against the trunk of the tree. For more information see the attached mulching fact sheet.

- Thoroughly water, even if it is raining. 20 gallons per tree within 8 hours of planting.

The summer following planting, from leaf on to leaf off

Once a week

- Water. 10 to 15 gallons: Applied at rate less than 3 gallons per minute.

Note: Watering can only be skipped if more than 1 inch of rainfall during that week. The rain must be monitored at the site NOT at some TV weather station. If .98 inches of rainfall, WATER! Rain can not accumulate for more than a week. If 5 inches of rainfall one week and none the next you must water. For more information see the attached watering fact sheet.

Fall after planting, after leaf fall(late October early November)

- Control weeds in mulch bed.

Year 2

Spring, before leaf out (late March)

- Remove all staking, wire, tags and twine.

- Control weeds in mulch bed.

- Refresh mulch to 3 inches. Mulch should be rotting about 33% per year by volume. Each tree should require about 1 inch of fresh mulch.

- Remove suckers, dead and broken branches.

Fall, after leaf fall(late October early November)

__ Control weeds in mulch bed.

Year 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9

Spring, before leaf out (late March)

__ Control weeds in mulch bed.

__ Refresh mulch to 3 inches. Mulch should be rotting about 33% per year by volume.
Each tree should require about 1 inch of fresh mulch.

__ Remove suckers, dead and broken branches.

Fall, after leaf fall(late October early November)

__ Control weeds in mulch bed.

Year 4, 7 and 10

Spring, before leaf out (late March)

__ Control weeds in mulch bed.

__ Refresh mulch to 3 inches. Mulch should be rotting about 33% per year by volume.
Each tree should require about 1 inch of fresh mulch.

__ Prune to establish central leader, raise lower branches so the crown of the tree is on the
upper 2/3 of the tree, establish good branching structure and remove suckers, dead
and broken branches.

Fall, after leaf fall (late October early November)

__ Control weeds in mulch bed.