

Caring For Young Trees Checklist

1. Watering

- Provide slow, deep watering to encourage root growth.
- Use a soaker hose or watering can, applying water at the base of the tree for about 30 minutes to an hour.
- Ensure the soil is saturated about 8 inches deep.
- Avoid overwatering to prevent root rot.
- Water young trees once a week, or more frequently in case of a drought or very hot weather.

2. Feeding

- Spread a 2-3 inch layer of organic mulch (wood chips or leaves) around the base of the tree.
- Apply a layer of compost around the base of the tree every few months, especially in spring and fall.
- Use a dilute solution of compost tea or seaweed extract as a liquid fertilizer.
- Be cautious not to over-fertilize young trees.

3. Protecting

- Use physical barriers such as plastic tree guards or mesh cages to protect the trunk.
- Apply chemical repellents around the base of the tree to deter animals.
- Cover the tree with bird or deer netting to prevent wildlife from accessing the foliage and fruit.
- Install a perimeter fence around the tree or a group of trees to keep large mammals away.
- Use humane traps to capture and relocate pests like squirrels or rabbits.
- In severe cases, use environmentally-friendly pesticides to control pests.