

~GROWING A LEGACY~

TREE CARE TIPS



The cool, rainy days of winter are here, and the trees have lost their leaves... but there is a lot going on that we do not see. Our front yard trees are sending down roots and storing up energy for this spring's lush new growth. Now is the time to take action to ensure the healthiest, fastest growing tree this summer. As part of the **Anatolia Shade Tree Program**, Sacramento Tree Foundation Foresters toured neighborhoods throughout Anatolia and created three easy steps you can take to help your young tree get a great start and avoid future problems.

SET IT FREE!

Do your trees still have the nursery stake attached? This is the small stake tied directly to the tree trunk and removing it allows your tree to move as it grows, creating a strong trunk and even branching. The larger stakes off to each side will provide plenty of support. And do not worry about pruning, since it is rarely needed in first few years.

BED IT DOWN!

A three foot circle of mulch, six inches deep will help control weeds, reduce moisture loss, regulate soil temperature, and provide all the nutrients your young tree needs. By controlling weeds and grasses, mulch reduces the need for mowers and line trimmers (weed whackers) to be used near the delicate bark at the base of young trees. Remember to keep the mulch a few inches from the trunk to let the roots breath, and never use stones for mulch (you'll cook the roots in summertime). Skip the weed cloth, since it will interfere with water and air exchange, and use wood chips or bagged products for your mulch.

GIVE IT NOURISHMENT!

Water carries food, and trees need a constant supply of both... but there can be too much of a good thing. If your tree is sitting in a basin, dig a drainage channel or replant the tree a couple of inches higher than the surrounding ground so the roots don't drown in the winter. The mulch will provide the young tree's nourishment and adding additional fertilizer may only cause unsustainable growth. Many trees do well growing in turf, but do not forget to give your trees a slow, deep watering every couple of weeks in the summer. The turf watering will keep a tree alive, but the occasional deep watering sends the roots deep, making the tree stable and better able to tolerate drought and hot weather.

EXPECT GREAT RESULTS!

With proper care, your young shade tree will be fast growing with great root structure, providing generations of family pleasure, environmental benefits, and energy savings. To learn more about trees and discover how to enjoy more community while creating a wonderful back yard, check out the **Anatolia Shade Tree Program** at AnatoliaLive.com.