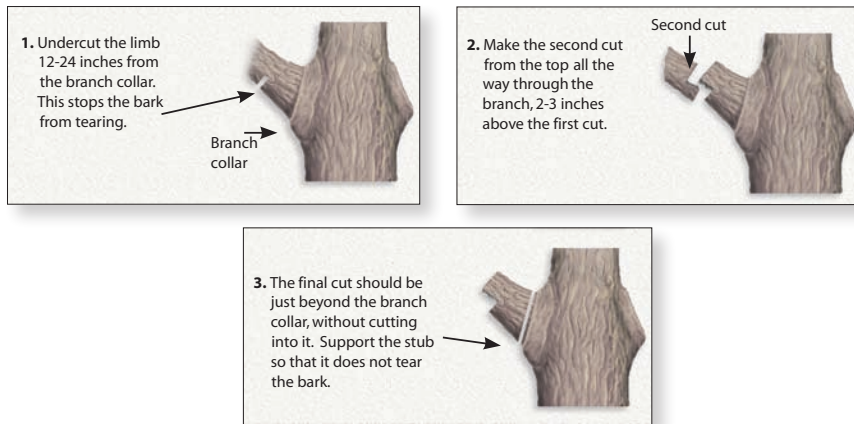


How To Prune Your Tree

Note: Newly planted trees do not to be pruned within the first two years. Trees need time to get established.



For more information:

www.austintexas.gov/trees/programs.htm

www.austintexas.gov/urbanheatisland

SP0811

Thank You

for adopting this tree

The Benefits Of Planting Trees

Trees are our biggest defense against the heat and it's estimated that Austin is losing as many as nine trees for every one planted. Trees provide shade and absorb solar energy.

Trees literally cool the air around them. Through evapotranspiration, they cool the air by evaporating moisture through their leaves. Daytime air temperatures can be 3 to 6 degrees cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods.

Trees shading the south and west sides of a building block the summer sun and reduce the amount of heat absorbed by the building.

A/C units in an area shaded by trees work more efficiently and use up to 10% less electricity.

Plants directly clean pollutants from air and water, provide flood protection, reduce soil erosion, and provide oxygen and food.

Trees indirectly improve air quality by reducing the amount of A/C driven electricity use and its related utility emissions (NOx and VOCs).



Adoption Papers



How To Care For Your Tree

1. Regular watering is the single most important factor in the success of your new tree. New trees need about 5 gallons of water for every inch of trunk diameter per week for about two years. This is true for all trees, even though they may be native or drought tolerant. Be careful not to drown the roots; they need air as well as water to grow.

2. Watering slowly by hand gives you a great opportunity to monitor your trees for problems such as disease, insects and broken or dead limbs. You will be amazed at how well your trees will respond to your care.

3. A good mulch layer will provide a natural source of nutrients to the tree and it will help cool the soil and conserve moisture. Maintain a 3-4 inch mulch layer within the planting area. Check the thickness of your mulch mid-summer and renew it as needed. Keep mulch away from the base of the trunk to avoid potential rotting of the bark.

4. Protecting young trees from grazing deer, children playing on fragile limbs, and weed eaters damaging bark is crucial for your tree's survival. Build a simple cage out of stakes and wire fencing or place educational signage near the tree.