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North Texas Municipal Water District Offers Tips to Efficiently Water Trees and Foundations This Summer

WYLIE, Texas — The North Texas Municipal Water District urges homeowners to properly maintain and water their trees and foundations during the hot, dry summer months.

Trees and foundations require a different watering method than lawns, shrubs and bushes. Residents should not rely on their irrigation systems to properly and efficiently water their trees and foundations. According to the Texas Forest Service, as many as 500 million trees across Texas died in 2011 as a result of the drought.

Trees and foundations need to be watered with drip or soaker hoses placed in strategic areas, and require deep and infrequent watering. To effectively irrigate trees, residents are advised to water at the tree's dripline, the outer edge of the tree's canopy. To properly water foundations, homeowners should place hoses 18 to 24 inches from the foundation.

"NTMWD encourages homeowners to maintain their investments through proper maintenance of trees and foundations," said Jim Parks, NTMWD executive director. "AgriLife Extension Service provides the specific watering methods needed to keep trees healthy and to maintain the foundations of our homes."

NTMWD and its 13 member cities have adopted AgriLife's recommended landscape practices:

How to Water Trees

Apply water just inside and a little beyond the dripline, not at the trunk. The dripline is the area directly below the outermost reaches of the branches.

Simply lay a slowly running hose on the ground and move it around the dripline as each area becomes saturated to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.

Be thorough and allow the water to penetrate deeply. Water should not pool on the ground.

To water large trees, let water flow slowly onto an area under the dripline of the tree for several hours.

Remember that watering that is adequate for lawn grasses growing under trees is not adequate for actively growing trees.

Source: AgriLife

How to Water Foundations

The goal of watering a foundation is to keep the soil near and under the slab at a consistent moisture level that is neither wet and muddy nor dry and cracked. Ideally, this level of moisture should be maintained to a depth of several feet.

Place soaker hoses or drip irrigation lines 18 to 24 inches from the foundation. The hose or drip line should not be placed against the foundation.

Run the hose or drips at a rate that allows the water to trickle into the soil, not pool or run off.

Run the hose or drips when evaporation will be minimal, before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Source: AgriLife

“Watering properly not only saves water, it also saves you money on monthly water bills and on potentially costly foundation repairs and tree removal,” said Parks.

Effective June 1, 2012, NTMWD moved to Stage 2 of its Water Conservation and Drought Contingency/Water Emergency Response Plan. Stage 2 water management strategies include up to twice-per-week landscape watering, if needed, with an automatic system. Stage 2 water management strategies do not restrict the watering of trees and foundations.

“We want to emphasize the ‘*up to twice per week and if needed*’” said Parks. “With 28 percent of the total raw water supply offline due to the infestation of the zebra mussel in Lake Texoma, we ask residents to do their part.”

Every year since 2006, NTMWD has used Water IQ: Know Your Water, a State of Texas water awareness and education campaign, to arm consumers with information to keep yards healthy while using water efficiently. NTMWD will host various outreach events where tips and water efficient practices are shared with consumers. For event dates and water-saving tips, visit <http://northtexas.wateriqknowyourwater.org/>.

June 29, 2012

4th Fest

Royse City HS Football Stadium

FM 2642 and I-30

Royse City, TX 75189

6 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.

June 30, 2012

Allen USA

Celebration Park

701 Angel Parkway

Allen, TX 75002

4 p.m. – 11 p.m.

July 3, 2012

Centennial Celebration

500 W. College

Princeton, TX 75407

6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

July 7, 2012
July Jubilee
Historic Downtown Wylie
Wylie, TX
6 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

July 14, 2012
Frisco Farmers Market
Frisco Square
6064 Frisco Blvd.
Frisco, TX 75034
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

About North Texas Municipal Water District

NTMWD directly serves the following cities and/or water supply agencies: Allen, Farmersville, Forney, Frisco, Garland, Mesquite, McKinney, Plano, Princeton, Richardson, Royse City, Rockwall, Wylie, Bonham, Caddo Basin S.U.D., Cash W.S.C., College Mound W.S.C., Copeville S.U.D., East Fork S.U.D., Fairview, Fate, Forney Lake W.S.C., Gastonia-Scurry S.U.D., Greater Texoma Utility Authority, Josephine, Kaufman, Kaufman Four-One, Lavon W.S.C., Little Elm, Lucas, Melissa, Milligan W.S.C., Mt. Zion W.S.C., Murphy, Nevada W.S.C., North Collin W.S.C., Parker, Prosper, Rose Hill S.U.D., Rowlett, Sachse, Seis Lagos M.U.D., Sunnyvale, Terrell and Wylie Northeast S.U.D.