



## **Preserve California's Trees During Drought**

As Californians work to conserve water inside and outside their homes during this historic drought, it's important to remember that responsible water use includes properly caring for our trees.

Trees provide many benefits to our communities including shade for the surrounding landscape, keeping our streets and homes cool, and improving air quality. When they are lost, it's not only expensive to remove them, but we lose all their great benefits in the decades it can take to grow back mature trees.

We need trees, and trees need water – even when water is scarce. Try these tips to keep your trees healthy through low water years:

- Water mature trees 1-2 times per month by placing a soaker hose around the tree in a spiral pattern.
- Gradually wean any trees located near a lawn that you are converting to low water use landscape by adjusting the watering schedule over time.
- Water only in the early morning or late evening.
- Avoid pruning or over-fertilizing trees during drought.
- Plant a layer of mulch four to six inches deep, extending to the drip line of the tree, to help retain soil moisture.

Find out more about how to care for trees during a drought from Save Our Water partner, California ReLeaf, at [californiareleaf.org](http://californiareleaf.org). To learn more about making your home water wise, visit [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com).